

# FRS GOES DX

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The reconditioned MV Communicator in IJmuiden. Photo: Chris Laties.

## In this 28 page edition:

- The Communicator in Holland
- La Voz del Cid feature
- Herbie's Memoirs
- Comprehensive SW Report
- Photos 'new' Communicator!!

**COLOPHON**

**FRS GOES DX** is a bimonthly magazine which informs about radio in general and **free radio** in particular. It's a publication of FRS-Holland

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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**ADVERTISING**

Small adds which are not commercial are free of charge for members. Small commercial adverts cost DM 5.00/ £ 2.00/ f 5.00/ \$ 3.00. For full or half-page adverts contact the editor.

**MAILING ADDRESS**

All correspondence should be sent to P.O. Box 2727, 6049 ZG HERTEN in the Netherlands. **Do not use the address which is on the cover!**

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**SOURCES OF INFO**

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**EDITORIAL**

Tuesday August 31st 1994 23.34: I'm starting to compile this editorial and suddenly I realize this Summer day in August is a very special one. It not only marks the 20th birthday of the Dutch version of the M.O.A. but there's also something else. Today 14 years ago FRS-Holland started broadcasting and the first official broadcast was put on the air. Recalling that period all kind of memories cross my mind.....Sunday mornings early out of my bed....putting the equipment in my car...driving to Bobby Speed who- as always- has to be dragged out of his bed by his father...that tiny little 10W tx with one 807, one 6L6 and one ECC82....my mother's shopping-bag hanging in the brushwood making sure the cassette player (which was inside) would not touch the woodland soil thus preventing RF feedback.....the great difficulties we experienced trying to hang the 20 metre open dipole in the trees. Of course this list could be made much longer but that would become a little boring. Sometimes I'm hankering after those days. Everything seemed so simple and it was the thrill of going to that magic forest doing all by yourselves making it all very exciting and worth while. But that's history. It's 1994 and FRS-Holland is still alive. Not every month but the enthusiasm to make the best out of a Sunday hasn't vanished. When you read these words, preparations are already in full swing to offer you a fantastic 14th birthday broadcast Sunday October 16th. Tune in, it will be a great party!! Almost exactly 20 years after the Dutch offshore stations closed down, the Dutch listening audience welcomed a new offshore vessel. After the usual tug of war, the Communicator is back where she belongs. A great moment to thousands of offshore radio enthusiast. She will resume her task as a radio vessel housing the Dutch commercial station Holland FM. The ship has been reconditioned and looks better than ever before. We are proud to be (most likely) the first magazine showing photos of the 'new' Communicator. An unique video will follow in October. Legal offshore radio in 1994: who could ever think of that?

73's, *Peter D.*

Page 3 . . . . .	FRS Newscorner
Page 4-7 . . . . .	Offshore News
Page 8-9 . . . . .	La Voz del Cid
Page 10-12 . . . . .	News from around the World
Page 13 . . . . .	Herbie the Fish's column
Page 14-23 . . . . .	SW Survey: logs & news
Page 24 . . . . .	FRS Satellite Telex
Page 25-26 . . . . .	Made in Holland
Page 27 . . . . .	Artiom Reports

**HOT NEWS /// HOT NEWS /// HOT NEWS///HOT NEWS ///**

According to one of our sources, a new offshore radio project will take to the airwaves possibly before X-Mas this year. The ship would drop its anchor 20 km off the Dutch Noordwijk coast. FM only transmissions would be beamed to the so-called Dutch 'Randstad', the densely populated western part of the Netherlands including major cities like Rotterdam and De Hague. A spectacular antenna system would be used. Name of the station could be 95.7 Hit FM.

# FRS NEWSCORNER

Not too much news in this FRS Newscorner column. Nevertheless some items have to be handled, so here we go...

## THANKS!

A few people must be thanked. In the first place Chris Latiers and Jan Parent for their excellent coverage of the Communicator and the excellent photos. Chris and Jan also covered the Communicator developments on video. This video will be for sale in October when issue 131 will be out! More about the video later on in this column. Of course we may not forget Hans Knot who did his share too and sent us- before taking a holiday break- a disk full of news.

Thanks to Thorsten Brandenburg, one of our very loyal FRS listeners who already tuned in to us in the very early 1980s. He helped us a lot in compiling the German SW news. Great work Thorsten. We are eagerly awaiting your next contribution! Also thanks to Manfred Beyen for sending us news.

From a couple of readers we received positive comment regarding the restyled magazine. Thanks to all of you!!!

## FRSH NOSTALGIA

A couple of months ago it was in this very magazine that we gave coverage to a very special exhibition which was in the city De Hague. It concerned a PTT exhibition called 'On the air, off the air' and was in fact about the history of the RCD which stands for Radio Controle Dienst. The RCD- a division of the PTT- is the Dutch version of the English DTI and has always been responsible for controlling the airwaves and thus also for tracking down illegal radio broadcasts. Exhibits were several unique confiscated transmitters. We had our suspicions that two FRS transmitters which were confiscated January 16th 1983 were also among the exhibits. To convince ourselves we- Joop ter Zee and Peter Verbruggen- drove to De Hague. We were not disappointed: the FRS transmitters were indeed exhibited!! Photos were taken and in the forthcoming issue we will publish a few along with a full report.

## FRS GOES DX INFO

Just a few odds and ends: Chris Watson who compiled the technical features in FRSGDX 128/129 is on the move. That's the reason he's currently absent. However:

in the name of Chris we have to point out that he will continue his series of technical articles as soon as possible. Good luck with your move!

Artiom is back in this issue but unfortunately we still haven't heard from Andrew in the US.

And then the questionnaire: part 1 which was all about this magazine was published in issue 129. We assumed to be able to work out the second part of the questionnaire. A date was set but Gerd, who would help and had to travel a long way to the FRS QTH, had to cancel. We discussed new possibilities and came to the conclusion that there was no new date available in August. Therefore we apologize for not having included the results of part 2 (the attitude of the SW free radio listener) in this issue. In the mean time Gerd is doing research and preparing the publishing of the results/conclusions in the upcoming edition which will be out late October.

Apologies for announcing the Herbert Visser article in issue 129. His story was *not* published but is indeed part of this late Summer edition. Herbert is not the only new contributor. Mark Jones will from now on regularly give his vision on certain SW related topics. Welcome Mark! There is one more (Scottish) person who will be regularly contributing. He will make his debut in FRSGDX most likely in October. More contributors/reporters means more variety!

By coincident Herbert Visser put us into touch with a person who was formerly involved with ABC Europe and World Music Radio, two leading stations in the 1970s. This could result in one or more features recalling the heydays of both stations. SW nostalgia from days gone by.

## FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS

Due to several other commitments we haven't been able to promote new radio tapes and videos in the past 10 months. As most of you will know FRS Sales Prod. offers a wide variety of radio tapes from stations around the world. Our lists contain documentaries, satellite, landbased pirates, offshore radio etc. Too many tapes to mention. More than hundred hours of new recordings have been added to our archives in the mean time. All these recordings have to be listed on our tape lists yet. We have decided to make a new start with FRS Sales Productions. Brandnew lists will be available hopefully before the

end of this year. These lists will contain both 'old' and new tapes. Starting with this issue, we will resume our bimonthly special tape and video offers giving you as a reader the chance to obtain interesting recordings from that wonderful world of wireless. A very special offer this month are the Communicator photo-sets. There will be at least one more photo-set covering the ship's journey to its new anchorage in the Dutch IJsselmeer. And we will also offer a *unique* video-tape covering the most important moments starting with the arrival of the ship in the Netherlands. Also shots from the erection of the tall 57m antenna tower! And ofcourse the ship leaving Ijmuiden harbour sailing to its mooring in the IJsselmeer. A video which will contain fantastic pictures. More info follows in October!!

## FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

Since April of this year FRS-Holland has been silent. During the Summer months conditions were rather poor making it not very attractive to carry out a lengthy broadcast. Although at least one nighttime trm was planned, nothing happened because transmitter engineer Herr Speed unexpectedly went on holidays to Greece. When he returned Verbruggen left FRS city and so it happened NOTHING HAPPENED. Quite a shame!! We will definitely carry out a nighttime trm on 48 metres in one of the next few weeks. But the main thing will be the celebration of our 14th birthday. We'll try and hold the tradition of the past few years up with a 4 hour transmission full of nostalgia. Put the date on your calendar: *Sunday October 16th* (and not the 15th as mistakenly reported in the previous FRS Newscorner!) at 10.00 CET. We hope to be on two frequencies (48 & 41) but that's not for sure at this very moment. A special announcement will possibly already been made at 09.30 CET (loop tape). So check out yourselves. A very special QSL will be available for that transmission. As far as the programmes are concerned: they will be hosted by Joop ter Zee, Stefan Kramer, Tony Mitchell and Peter Verbruggen. Music of the FRS era 1980-1994 will be played along with extracts from the FRS tape archives. There will be a listeners' competition, in short: *an old-fashioned FRS-Holland Sunday full of entertainment you may NOT miss!!* □

## FRSGDX = RADIO

# SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

*The die is cast!! After 5 years the former Laser 558 and Laser Hot Hits 576 radio vessel MV Communicator left Portugal and arrived in Ijmuiden where final work is being carried out to prepare her for a brandnew broadcasting task. This time not as an sea-based offshore station outside territorial limits having to deal with authorities who'd like to cross all activities. It's perhaps strange but nevertheless true: European offshore radio is all but dead! Holland FM proves it. 'FRS Goes DX' reports....*

## MV COMMUNICATOR

As already known Holland FM has bought the mv Communicator. Gero Vink represented Holland FM in Portugal to sign the contract with the (previous) owners. The ship will be anchored as a relaystation in the IJsselmeer. After some serious delays the ship arrived in Holland at last. The delays mostly were caused by the behaviour of the Portuguese people. According to Holland FM program controller Nico Volker the Portuguese workmen only knew two words: "Tomorrow, tomorrow". But there were also other delays: the ship had to be made seaworthy. And Holland FM was forced to pay off a number of claims from creditors, something which wasn't done by the former owner. Initially it was intended to leave Lisbon harbour Sunday August 7th. However, a lot of paperwork had to be done before the authorities released the ship. That finally happened Wednesday August 10th. Later that day, at flood-tide, the Communicator was towed to another position in the harbour by some local tugs. It wasn't possible to leave for Holland immediately, because there was a wind force 7 in the Gulf of Biscay. Because of conditions made by the insurance company they had to wait until the weather calmed down. Moreover, the Portuguese shipyard hadn't prepared the Communicator properly for the journey. So the crew had to tie up again some things that were lying on the deck. For instance parts of the masts that were intended to be raised on the ship some year ago. Maybe you remember some pictures of the Communicator in Lisbon, published in the magazine. On these pictures one could see a new rear mast had been erected. Of the front mast only one part had been raised. At the moment the Communicator was purchased by the Holland FM organization only the little front mast remained. The other parts of the masts were lying on the deck. These parts also made the journey to Holland. Out of these parts one mast will be

built. This mast will be 58 meters high. Finally, Thursday August 11th, at 14.15 local time the ship left Porte Alcantare. The Dutch tug *Vlieland* towed the Communicator to its destination. It was intended to arrive in Ijmuiden on Wednesday August 17th. The Communicator, already beautifully painted in Dutch national colours (red, white and blue) would be equipped in Ijmuiden harbour before sailing to the IJsselmeer. Studios, a 20 kW transmitter, generators and the mast have to be built. It is intended to start transmissions from the ship Wednesday August 31st. All offshore enthusiasts will understand this is a crucial date: at that day it will be 20 years ago Radio Veronica and Radio Noordzee left the air.

The captain of the *Vlieland* has become some kind of hero to the Holland FM audience. Every afternoon he appeared in the programme of Krijn Torringa to report about the journey. Captain Ottosen appeared to be a good speaker with a good sense of humour. Tuesday the 16th he told the listeners the Communicator should arrive at Ijmuiden next morning at 10 o'clock. At that time the ship should be passing the piers. The rest of the day the deejays invited the listeners to come to the harbour.

Next morning at 10 o'clock sharp the *Vlieland* towed the Communicator into Ijmuiden harbour! Don't think the captain Ottosen is a clearvoyant. The ships arrived already at 4 o'clock in the morning! To avoid disappointment for the listeners it was decided to sail back some miles southwards. So it was possible to arrive in time exactly. Some more tugs escorted the Communicator into the harbour. Half an hour later the Communicator was moored at the Haringkade. Some hundred fans of the station were watching the arrival. They represented a good profile of the station.

Various Holland FM celebrities attended the happening, many of them with their roots in the world of offshore radio. Also a

lot of reporters from papers, radio and television were on the spot. Among them was good-old Ad Roberts (Caroline, Monique, Radio 558). Nowadays he is working at the local station Radio Plus in... Ijmuiden.

The Holland FM people celebrated the arrival of the Communicator on the deck of the ship with champagne.

Soon after work at the ship started. On Thursday (August 18th) the new transmitter was delivered. The station will use a Harris DX 250 with an output power of 25 kW. This is a state-of-the-art AM transmitter which can modulate up to 125%. The Harris DX-Series is known for its revolutionary modulation technology giving excellent results. As far as we know there are no tubes being used in the modulation stage of the transmitter. It's all transistorized. Nico Volker stated it still was intended to start transmissions August 31st, despite all the work that had to be carried out. "We will work day and night. We will show the Portuguese the Dutch don't dislike work!." During its stay at Ijmuiden the Communicator will be guarded 24 hours a day, to discourage unwanted visitors.

Six workmen from the Dutch Nozema (Dutch Transmitter Company) even worked throughout the weekend to install the transmitter. Apart from that the interior of the ship has to be renewed. The cabins have to be in good shape, because during the first week of transmissions from the ship the programmes will be aired live from the ship. In the meantime also a *satellite-receiver and a optimod* have been installed. The satellite equipment is highly professional and will be used to pick up the Astra satellite signal. When the work on the ship progressed it became clear it wasn't possible to start broadcasting August 31st. The mast will be delivered just one day earlier. To enable adjustment of the transmitter the Nozema has installed a temporarily aerial.

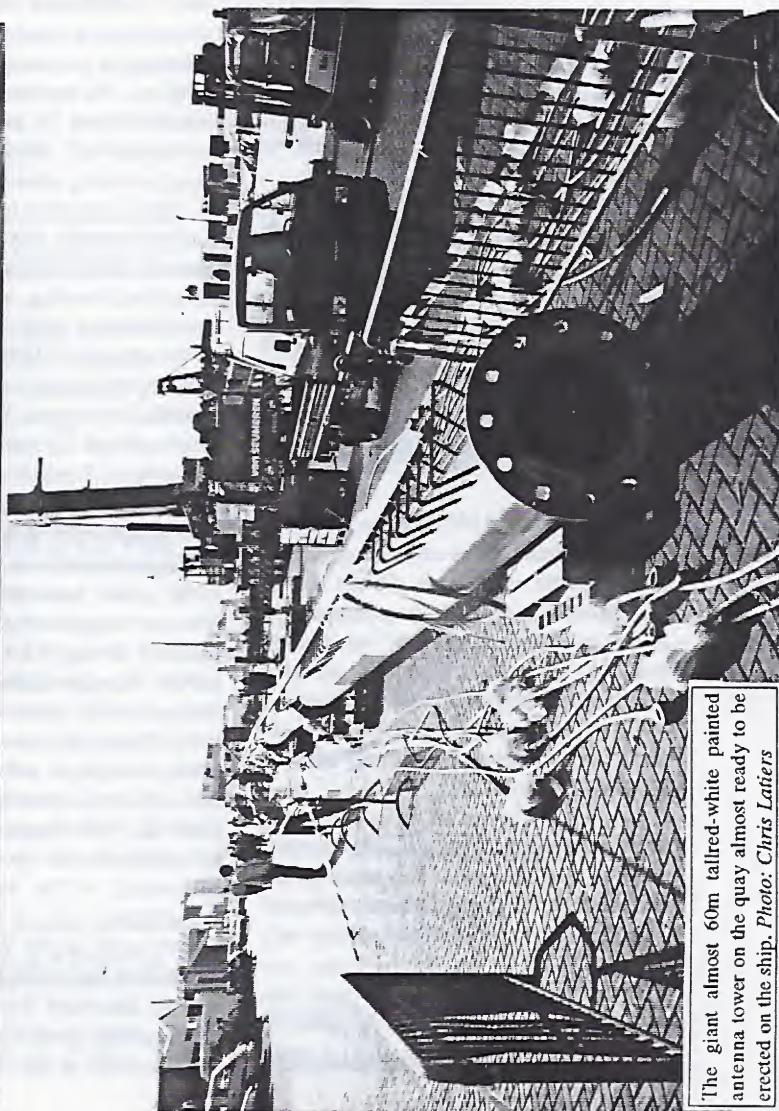
Just before the magazine went to the printer the following *update* was compiled: Thursday August 18th Nozema engineers started installing the brandnew Harris unit. Approx. a week later the transmitter was already tested on a dummy load. And when considering that there was no electricity on the ship on Sun August 21st, it's clear that the people aboard the ship did a great job. To ensure the best possible AM sound quality, an optimod has been installed. For this purpose Holland FM trapped former Caroline wizzard Peter Chicago carrying



Work is being carried out before the antenna will be erected. On top of the mast an impressive red cross. Photo: Chris Latiers.



A totally repainted Communicator Rotterdam.  
Photo: Jan Parent.



The giant almost 60m tall red-white painted antenna tower on the quay almost ready to be erected on the ship. Photo: Chris Latiers



out the right adjustments ensuring maximum efficiency.

The ship's condition is better than ever before. The fresh paint makes one think you have to deal with a brandnew ship. But also on the deck a lot of maintenance was carried out. During the morning hours of tuesday August 30th the giant red-white painted antenna tower was erected with the help of impressive cranes. One FRSGDX reporter was on the spot taking photographs and making video recordings. He said that the installment of the stay wires was a very accurate and time-consuming job. Engineers had been making several calculations which were needed to properly do this important job. Giant coils were already on the ship's deck. They are important to match the ship's transmitting frequency (1224 kHz) with the antenna tower. Salient detail: the ship's guard used to be engineer on the King David, once the home of the short-lived Capital Radio offshore project.

Early September work commenced to rebuild the former Laser studio into a brandnew and modern Holland FM studio. The idea is suggested to invite a number of former Laser jocks who will be presenting a full nights of programmes live from the Communicator at a date yet to be determined. Would be great fun!!

**NOW AVAILABLE VIA  
FRS SALES PROD.:  
FANTASTIC PHOTO  
SETS OF THE 'NEW  
COMMUNICATOR! FOR  
MORE DETAILS SEE  
PAGE 3 !!**

#### FORMAT CHANGES

Recently Holland FM slightly adopted a more 'middle of the road format'. More records in the English language and/or made by "foreign" artists are played. Probably the station wants to attract a broader audience. This was confirmed by deejay Chiel Montagne who revealed on RTL television Holland FM will adopt a little "younger" sound.

The report above gets quite another meaning reading the following item, delivered by a source which can be described as "very well informed and usually very reliable":

#### VERONICA BACK ON A SHIP?

Already for some years Veronica has plans

to leave the public system to go commercial. Via Veronique (nowadays called RTL-4) the broadcaster has made an attempt to operate a commercial station while staying a public broadcaster. Veronica was fined a very huge penalty for this.

Some two years ago the board of the station decided to stay a publiccaster. But at this very moment the station is investigating the possibilities of a commercial status again. Talks with a lot of possible businesspartners are taking place. These talks all regard the television side of the enterprise. However, chairman of Veronique, Mr. Joop van der Reijden, persists to take the radio division also into the commercial adventure.

Willem van Kooten, shareholder of Holland FM, has made a quite remarkable offer to Veronique. He has offered Veronique to use the MV Communicator for its radio broadcasts, when the station has left the public system. Veronique could make use of the license of Holland FM. Veronique back on a radioship, the place were it all started! A foolish idea or ....?

Fact is Veronique is seriously considering an alternative to broadcast its radio programmes in case the station goes commercial. A committee from the board of members of the station has discovered a solution: leasing or buying a transmitter and frequency abroad, probably in Russia. In Eastern Europe several AM frequencies have become available because a lot of stations have been moving to FM. These AM transmitters can easily reach Holland. In the month of October Veronique will decide whether to go commercial or to stay a public broadcaster. We are very curious which solution Veronique will chose for the radio side of the station. Back to "piracy"?

#### MV STURMVOGEL

In the period June 10th- August 28th the first-ever legal offshore radio station beaming its signal into Germany was on the air. Already during the late 60s German authorities ratified a new law making it an offence and thus almost impossible to run an offshore radio station. June 10th the radio station Antenne, broadcasting from the MV Sturmvoegel, commenced broadcasts on the occasion of the 738th anniversary of the seaport of Weimar. Programmes went on the air from a number of ports at the Mecklenburg coast. Apart from taped programming, there was a daily live show between 14.00- 17.00 CEST called 'Kofferradio'. The ship was built in 1932 at the Baltic Sea. Antenne

engineer Diego Ludwig converted the two-master into a real floating radio station. Apart from the anniversary there was another reason for the transmissions: promoting tourism at the North-east coast of Germany. The ship's signal was uplinked by the Bundespost to a satellite and down-linked to a ground station which relayed the signal to the station's studio. As from September onwards the Sturmvoegel has resumed its original job as a charter sailing ship.

#### DUTCH OFFSHORE EXHIBITION

Issue 129 carried a detailed report about this unique exhibition in Hilversum. Many Dutch radio stations covered the event in their programming: NOS, NCRV, AVRO, Radio Gelderland, Radio Noord-Holland, Radio Noord and Belgian BRT Radio 2. Several newspapers carried interviews with former Veronique managing-director Bull Verwey. The latter also appeared in a number of radio programmes. Till September 4th you have (or better: had) the chance to take a visit and relive the heydays of the Dutch ship-based radio stations. Veronica Magazine have published a book called 'De Stemmen van de Noordzee' (The Voices of the North Sea) containing a potted history of the Dutch language offshore radio stations, a Veronique story and no less than 16 interviews with known and less known former offshore people (mostly deejays). The book contains a total of 128 pages with lots of photographs. Call 35-885888 for further info how to obtain the book. If you are a regular listener to RNW's 'Media Network', you have perhaps heard the extensive report about the exhibition in the programme of Thursday June 30th.

#### RADIO CAROLINE

#### RUMOURS

What is the offshore section without rumours? It's like an FRS-Holland tx without an 807! In England rumours keep on circulating about a new ship-based Radio Caroline project aboard a new ship. One of our sources claims there is a ship which is right now converted into a floating radio ship somewhere in Europe (?). He has contacts with a few persons who are involved in the project. Quoting him: "the pieces of the jigsaw are coming together. The story of a few persons are matching up." The new Caroline shouldn't be back before X-Mas 1994. Let's wait



and see....

And time after time it is emphasized that neither Peter Moore, nor several former Caroline people of the past few years are in no way involved in this new Caroline venture. Ronan O'Rahilly hasn't approached Peter Chicago. One of the main things the organisation has to deal with is making sure the ship flies a flag. In this respect the Liberian flag is mentioned.

Mid July NBC Superchannel's Supertext (page 271) carried a story about negotiations between the Caroline organisation and an unknown organisation. The report said that Caroline was undertaking attempts to return with a satellite delivered radio service on Astra. Not Ronan with Peter Moore seems to be the man behind these negotiations. According to reports Peter not only hopes to obtain an on-land licence but is also looking for financial backing making it possible Caroline to return on Astra with a satellite delivered radio service. Is it true that Peter is cooperating with former employees of defunct Euronet to put out a daily radio service on satellite? If the latter is true you may- in all sincerity- say that 'wonders will never cease' knowing that Peter wasn't on good terms with Euronet... Our UK source could perhaps give an explanation. In the mean time no further news has been heard about proposed satellite trms.

By the awy: former Euronet people have plans to put out a monthly television programme via an existing satellite delivered tv service.

A last rumour with regard to an organisation having close ties with Caroline. It is said the Ross Revenge Support Group has split up. Money has run out. We await futher info from the UK.

The Ross Revenge isn't registered anymore on the most recent listings of Lloyds in London. Lloyds is regurlarly making inventories of all sea ships which 'sail' on the worldly waters.

## RADIO HOF

In issue 128 we carried a report about Radio Hof, an Israeli offshore radio station. In the mean time Hans Knot found out the ship lost its anchor a few months ago. The owner decided to have the ship towed into a harbour. Then Radio Hof continued as a landbased pirate station. In the mean time the station was raided once but despite this setback Radio Hof is still active. Arutz Sheva is currently the only active Israeli offshore station and even the only radioship in the world broadcasting from

international waters.

## OFFSHORE RADIO IN ZAIRE?

June 27th BBC World Service announced that a political opposition party is serioulsy considering the idea of starting their own offshore project. AM and SW trms would be planned. On AM 25 kW and on SW 50 kW. Question is whether it will ever take to the airwaves....

## VERONICA SHIP

The former Veronica ship Norderney left the harbour of Emden (Northern Germany) Thursday June 30th at 09.00 hours AM. The ship was used serving as a floating discotheque during a few weeks. In this period the on land discotheque of German Peter Salzer, who hired the ship, was rebuild. The ship returned to Groningen. In the mean time the owners have got permission from the Leeuwarden local council to moor and exploit the Norderney in this city. The plan was to approach Radio Veronica to broadcast live on radio the official re-opening of the ship-based discotheque August 31st. A very special date!

## RADIO NOORDZEE

Dutch commercial satellite broadcaster Radio Noordzee Nationaal (RNN) which has an almost national terrestrial FM coverage by now, is considering the idea to lease the Ross Revenge for one day on....yes....August 31st, the day that it is 20 years ago that the Dutch version of the MOA came into force making it impossible for Veronica, RNI & Atlantis to continue. Mr. Wetering, fellow managing-director of RNN contacted SMC. SMC acts as a mediator. At the moment you read this, August 31st has passed. Without Ross Revenge in Dutch waters. It appeared the ship's condition is not good enough to get a seaworthiness certificate from British authorities. In the mean time the owner of the former Veronica ship Norderney has been approached. Perhaps will RNN broadcast for one day from the Norderney?

## MISCELLANEOUS

Die hard offshore fans who were already active in the 70s must recognize the name of *Dennis King*. He used to be on Caroli-

ne and Radio Seagull and worked 10 years on RIAS Berlin, a station which doesn't exist anymore. Nowadays Dennis is presenting a sponsored Oldies show on Berlin-based RS2.

August 1983 marked the return of a new Radio Caroline from that beautiful red ship the MV Ross Revenge. Caroline recommenced broadcasting with a new crew consisting of Dixie Peach, Tom Anderson, Andy Archer and Robin Ross among others. *Robin Ross* is now working on Fortune 1458 in Manchester presenting the breakfast show. He used to do shows on Picadilly and Red Rose Radio. By the way: Fortune 1458 commenced broadcasting Monday June 20th.

Another former Caroline jock, *Tom Hardy*, left GWR and joined ILR-station Leicester Sound. Indeed he did but in the mean time Tom has left Leicester Sound to occupy himself preparing a very important radio project somewhere in Europe... (those were his very own words). Note: is this a piece of that jig-saw which we mentioned earlier in this section?? Could be!

Good old *David Lee Stone* (funny were the moments he made a slip of the tongue calling himself Al Stoner)- who doesn't know him from his Laser 558 career and very short-lived Laser Hot Hits 576 period is advertising in British radio magazines he's available to any radio station in the UK willing to offer him a job. In the past three years David lived in Italy making a living as a session guitar-player and doing backing vocals.

Sat and Sun July 2nd/3rd saw the annual meeting of the members of Offshore Echoes Magazine in Calais, France. Among those who were invited the names of Keith Skues, Johnny Lewis, Dave the Fish and Jerry Wright.

*Paul McKenna*, once a very talented radio deejay, has concluded a new deal with Carlton TV for producing a new series of hypnosis tv shows. In the mean time Paul is millionaire. Times can change. In the 80s he worked on the Ross Revenge earning a few pences (or even nothing at all!).

Former Atlantis offshore personality *Steve England* who's the big man behind famous jingle company Alfasound (even FRS-Holland used to be an Alfasound client!) was in suspense after reading in a British trade journal that he was on a photo at the Dutch Offshore exhibition. Nothing special you would say but: it was mentioned he was naked on that photo. All in all Steve was happy to know he had only taken off his t-shirt. What a disappointment! □

# LA VOZ DEL CID

We already reported in FRS Goes DX about the failure of Joost den Draaiers' offshore project Radio Hollandia. This time the story of two projects of which one never was realised and the other only muddled through.

It was on 8 August 1983 that in the American weekly Newsweek the first report was to be found about the plans of equipping a ship as a floating radio and television station that would provide propagandistic programmes from the international waters near the Cuban coast. A couple of Cubans living in exile in the United States declared to prepare an invasion of the island and that this invasion would be totally different from earlier, shortfallen attempts: "We will crush Cuba, not with dynamite and arms, but with television programmes". The exiles belonged to a group known under the name 'Cuba Indenpendiente y Democratica'. They postulated to be busy for quite some time with the project, to be known as La Voz Del CID.

They wanted, during that same month, to start transmissions using a 40 meter long fishing boat anchored south of Key West in Florida, about 75 miles out of the Cuban coast. It wasn't to be however, because they almost immediately got into trouble with the FCC, the Federal Communication Commission. The FCC tried to prevent the transmission postulating that the group didn't have a broadcasting license. They also referred to the international treaty on preventing unnecessary interference of foreign stations. Huber Mantoz jr., a spokesman for the Cubans, declared the FCC would under no circumstances be able to prevent the transmissions, but he added that he couldn't tell when they would really start the broadcasts.

In the meantime the group investigated the possibilities to start transmissions without interference from the American authorities. It has to be said that the planned television programmes would be totally independent from the TV Marti project financed by the US government with the same goal of propaganda broadcasts for the oppressed Cubans. At the end of July 1983 the US government funded 15 million guilders for the furnishing of a radio- and televisionship and the costs of the first 90 days of operation. The station would start from land though, for which a location near Marathon in South Florida had been chosen. Not only propaganda was

the goal of the televisionstation - that had to be run under the responsibility of the Voice of America - but also a newscast that should be concuring with the Cuban State television newscast. There would also be ample time for American television series and soaps. This with the aim to bring the Cubans into the modern times since the average Cuban was still living like they were in the 50's.

Mantoz declared to the press that his organisation liked the idea of Marti, but that they still wanted their own station because they didn't want to be a puppet of the American Foreign Office. Main object of the project should be the pure promotion of democracy in Cuba. Mantoz already had ample radio experience, because his voice could be heard over several shortwave stations in Middle- and South-America for more than six years in similar radio programmes. He went a step further by posing that his offshore station, La Voz del CID, would ask for passive resistance against the Cuban government and also would aim at a low productivity of the labourers. This was to destabilise the communist regime.

Despite the fact that project had not been completely technically prepared, the group was already convinced on how the programmes had to be set up. "During our first two days of broadcast we will run the same number of movies in which the theme of 'breaking the laws of human rights' will be the central focussing point. Furthermore we will analyse the Cuban newscasts and we provide the Cubans with an insight of the way their compatriots are living in freedom in the USA". Again they bragged that in May the televisiontransmitter had already been tested without any interference of either American or Cuban television stations.

A couple of days later again the news was to be found that the Cuban exiles had sought jurisdictional advise in the question about probable legal action that could be undertaken by the FCC. It turned out that, as long as one stayed in international waters, no broadcasting license would be necessary and that it also would be impossible to interfere. Already one day later a spokesman for the FCC responded by stating that when the fishing boat, intended to be used for the transmissions, would carry the American flag, it would be boarded immediately and would be towed ashore. Als Radio Marti commented: "As soon as the transmissions of the exiles start

the Cuban government will put a strong jammer into operation, preventing all reception on the island. Castro will not tolerate any form of propaganda from former compatriots". La Voz del Cid planned transmissions on channel 8 VHF because there were hardly any television sets on Cuba providing UHF reception. Whether it was lack of organisational talent or lack of necessary finances is unclear, fact is that La Voz del CID was never seen on Cuba because no station was ever active under that name.

In the mean time the transmissions of Radio Marti, via a strong transmitter located in South Florida, were to be heard on Cuba and according to a spokesman the signals were undisturbed. At first the Cuban government had started a jammer, but when it turned out that the contents of the programmes had no negative effect on the Cubans whatsoever, they had given up this activity. According to a survey, by order of Radio Marti, 2.5 million of the 10 million Cubans would listen to the programmes during a week. In the mean time an investigation, financed by the US government, was carried out by the USIA (United States Information Agency), to see what the eventual possibilities were for the start of TV Marti, next to the Radio Marti project. Three proposals were drafted: 1) The use of a strong tv-transmitter in Florida, 2) the use of a satellite station en 3) the use of a ship as base for the televisionstation.

The last option was not so surprising as they had in first instance thought of a broadcasting vessel for the Radio Marti project, and even furnished a ship to some extend. However it would take until 1990 before the TV Marti project got under way at last.

It wasn't until 1 January 1990 that testtransmissions of TV Marti started from a ship in international waters off the coast of Cudjoe Key in Florida. As aid for the antenna an already in the 50's well proven system was used: a balloon filled with helium boasted the antenna up to 10.000 feet into the air, providing a maximum reach for the broadcasting signal. The testtransmissions lasted for no less than 90 days after which the official broadcasts started. During the testperiod the Cuban government announced that as soon as TV Marti would start official programming the station would be jammed.

On 27 March around a quarter to



one in the night the transmitter was switched on for real programmes consisting of music, the soap 'Kate and Allie' and all kinds of infoblocks about the life in the USA, spoken in Spanish - the official language of Cuba. Frequency was just under channel 13 and the Cuban government immediately put a jammer on this channel making the reception of TV Marti almost impossible. A spokesman for the Cuban government also stated that if the station would continue its broadcasts other American stations would be jammed as well. It was known in the US that the Cubans had some very powerful AM-transmitters ranging from 250 to 1000 kW. But the Americans were not afraid of the Cuban bragging and decided, albeit irregularly, to continue the broadcasts of TV Marti.

After the start of the television-broadcasts it was not only the Cuban government that - by jamming the station - protested, but also several countries from Middle and South America tried to convince the American government that they were out of bounds with TV Marti. Even an official protest was lodged against the

government via the United Nations. Several television- and radiostations in the Southern states of the US spoke out their alarm of their fear that soon their transmissions would be jammed by the Cubans as a kind of counterattack. All this led even to an official protest lodged by the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) via their subdivision IFRB (International Frequency Registration Board) against the American government stipulating that they used an unauthorised frequency, let alone an official permit to run the programmes of TV Marti. The American government, under the presidency of George Bush, disclaimed this protest by stating that did not have any right to interfere with the transmissions of TV Marti.

Early 1991 the first protests could be heard from the Congress. Marti and other radio propaganda projects were heavily criticised, because of the outdated mode of propaganda, only suitable during the 'Cold War'. Notwithstanding the Bush administration continued pumping large sums of money into the USIA, out of which the projects were financed. When the Cuban government in the Summer of 1991 at last

decided to put jammers into operation against several radio- and televisionstations in South Florida, making it impossible for the people at home to listen to them, the government was buried under hefty protests. In due course, also instigated by surveys that showed that the broadcasts had hardly any influence on the inhabitants of Cuba, the transmissions of both Radio Marti and TV Marti were suspended. After a couple of months of discussions the programmes were resumed.

In the fall of 1992 it was rumoured again in the American press that the former TV Marti ship would be rebuilt by a group of Americans, amongst them some substantial religious organisations, into a radioship in an American harbour. All kinds of rumours followed and at last in March 1993 a televisioncrew of CNN tracked the ship down in Boston harbour. Three different radiostations would be housed on the ship, directed to West European listeners. In June 1993 it was even rumoured that the ship would already be off the coast of Duinkerken. But since then no one has ever heard anything from the ship again. □

This story was compiled by Hans Knot.  
Translation: Gerd.

## MARK's REMARKS

Yes, I'm a free radio supporter. For already more than 10 years I'm sitting fascinated behind my receiver trying to catch SW pirates. When propagation conditions were good, I could easily receive up to 20 different stations from all over Europe in the mid morning early afternoon period. However: since a couple of months I only hear a handful of stations despite using a sensitive outdoor antenna connected to an antenna tuning unit. What is the cause? The sun's activities are reduced and all SW free radio listeners suffer from that. There is talk of a sunspot minimum, repeating itself every 11 years. The previous cycle had its lowest point in 184/1985. More and more stations react on the poor conditions and move to 3.9 MHz/76 metres broadcasting mostly after 22.00 UTC. Therefore I sleep a few hours less during the weekend trying

to catch my favourite stations on 76 metres in the nightly hours. But soon there's disappointment. The majority of stations use 76 metres for qso-ing purposes, often 'accompanied' by heavy static. It seems as if the 76 mb reacts like a magnet on noise and crackle. And thus real enjoyment is rare, it is more like 'ear stress'. And: not enough clear frequencies are left for more stations willing to be active during nighttime in the 3900-3950 section of te 76 mb. But, are there any alternatives? I think the answer is YES!!! When tuning in on the 40 mb between 16.00 and 19.00 UTC, you will receive amateurs from across Europe providing excellent signals. So why there are hardly any pirates broadcasting in the early evening hours on 6 or 7 MHz?? No doubt one reason is the lack of listeners. Therefore test trms must be announced

beforehand, for instance in the early afternoon!! Conditions on 48 metres are ok between 06.00-08.00 UTC but most activities start at a time when the conditions have already deteriorated as a result of the strong attenuation (muffling). A ridiculous situation! For me the traditional free radio bands are far from death, only: alternative possibilities must be tried. That simply means: transmitting and receiving at different times. The hams set an example to us. We could use them as a model. A broadcast between 16.00- 19.00 UTC is more than worth while! Because also in our radio scene flexibility is a must, otherwise even more radio listeners will switch to satellite radio stations whose many-sided programming are to be received in crystal-clear quality without any static. □

*Sunday October 16th FRS-Holland will be celebrating its 14th Birthday with a 4 hour broadcast. Don't miss it for the world!!*

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



## ENGLAND

### IFM: NO MORE AM

Radio One's 1053 and 1089 kHz MW service is no more. The service was originally opened in September 1967 as the BBC's replacement for the British offshore radio stations. In those early days of tiny medium wave transistor radio's, it would have been impossible to know Radio One would once become a FM-only radio station. However, the ever-changing world of radio and the demand for split services on AM & FM have resulted in the need for the BBC to give up its 1053 & 1089 kHz slots. These frequencies will be used by the UK's 3rd national commercial radio service *Talk Radio* commencing broadcasts February 1995. July 1st saw the final Radio One AM transmissions on 275 and 285 metres as the AM frequencies were once known. Following a run down of services over the preceding two weeks and announcements informing the listeners to retune to FM at 08.55 AM Steve Wright announced during his Breakfast Show that all medium wave programming would cease at 09.00 hours. The final minutes were filled with a *montage of Radio One jingles* covering the station's history (RBL's The RadioTape).

In the past 12 months Radio One (=1FM) lost no less than 30% of its listening audience! The weekly reach dropped with 3.4 million listeners and it's listening share is now 13.3% still making it the best listened to British radio station. Radio 2 (12.9%) comes second followed by Radio 4 (10.4%). Best listened to commercial radio station is long wave Atlantic 252 having a 3.7% reach and beating Virgin 1215 (3.2%) and Classic FM (2.7%). All BBC stations (including local & regional txs) are attracting marginally more listeners than all commercial British stations (50.3%) (RBL).

### CLASSIC FM: EXPANSION

Earlier this year commercial British classical music station Classic FM obtained a licence for terrestrial broadcasts in the Netherlands. A similar licence has now been obtained to operate a service in Finland. Classic FM will have its seats in Helsinki. Next step is- so hopes the station's management- to obtain a licence in Finland.

In the mean time the station has started operations in Sweden under the name Classic FM Sweden putting out a format of news and classical music.

The Classic FM management has announced plans for a world-wide expansion. Within two years they hope to reach a potential of 100 million listeners in Europe.

Early next year Classic FM is planning to start with an own magazine. Initially the magazine is aimed at the British market with a circulation of 100,000. Talks are being held concerning a Dutch publication. The latter depends on the response of the Dutch audience on the Classic programming. The contents of the magazine will cover general articles about (classical) music and back ground features about the station's programmes (FRW).

### RADIO WYVERN

Radio Wyvern, broadcasting on AM & FM, has not to fear for the future. As from October 4th 1995, a new 8 year lasting licence will take into force. Spring 1995 the station will start different services on AM and FM (FRW).

### 105 to 108 MHz GETS A PLAN

A full range of new FM stations, with wattage matching the most powerful stations in the largest markets, to low-power operations as small as 1W, could be allocated in the U.K. and available for use in January 1996. What will not happen, however, is a fourth national radio network. This, based on a ruling by the Radio Authority for use of the spectrum from 105 to 108 MHz, sets the stage for a new level of competition and growth in an industry that appears to be on the rebound from recession. Most importantly, the Radio Authority recognized the high level of public support for the development of various kinds of small-scale radio services. It took quite some discussion until the RA choose the so-called Option D allocation for the 105-108 MHz section of the band. Option D allows for the setting up of small scale stations serving areas to a maximum radius of 15 km and using a maximum power of 200W. The initial plans reserve the 107-108 MHz frequency range specifically for these low power services. In addition the RA plans to introduce further regional and metropolitan services for the remainder between 105 and 107. These services have to offer alternative programming to existing services (RBL).

### VIRGIN: FM ANYWAY?

Virgin's plan to switch to a nation-wide FM network have failed (see FRSGDX 129) but Virgin doesn't throw in the

towel! Virgin is now competing for licences (105-108 MHz) which are offered in several major English cities. Virgin even



considers the idea of returning its AM licence in case the station can be successful in a number of major cities. In that case the RA can re-allocate the licence! Virgin 1215 is to introduce a new Saturday night show without advertisements. The show, called *Saturday Night Fever*, will offer 4 hours of non-stop music from 22.00- 02.00 UK time. Virgin claims that even when your deejay fails to turn up, your party can go on just as you planned it simply by tuning into the show.

### LEN GROAT

Len Groat is an authority when it comes to *jingles*. He's active for already many years within the English radio and jingle industry. If there's anyone producing many jingle packages in the UK, then it's him! Len has been appointed *Southern Jingle Consultant* for Manchester-based Alfasound. Former Radio Atlantis jock Steve England is Alfasound's chief and must be very happy that Len joined the Alfasound ranks! (FRW)

### RIDICULOUS!

The management of UK-based Stary FM in Harrogate don't seem to understand that much about *radio*. They don't see that their deejays try to promote the station name via *speech* and *jingles*. And that deejays would also like to use their own *name jingles*. The management passed a list round on which the deejays could indicate whether they'd like *shouts*. Afterwards the bill was handed over to the jocks.... (FRW)

### SHORT-LIVED

The new magazine *'Gold'* which was an initiative by well-known deejay Tony Prince has is already *defunct*. By the end of June we heard that following the fourth edition the magazine was very loss-making: no less than £ 100,000 had already



been lost! When the backers heard of the financial losses they withdrew. Quite an understandable decision! 'Gold' was a magazine covering old music and radio (FRW).

#### CAPITAL FM

During the New York Radio Festival, a number of prizes have been awarded to programme staff of London-based Capital FM. The current affairs programme 'The way it is' was awarded a golden medal. Another prize (silver) was awarded to Capital in the 'Programme IDs' category for a set of jingles entitled 'Capital FM Eurotours'. Bronze was won in the categories 'The Best Contest Programme' and 'Best on Special Report'. Capital is one of the UK's most successful commercial stations (FRW).

#### SCANDINAVIA

##### SWEDISH RADIO

According to a recent survey, private local radio stations are doing well in Sweden. Those stations operating in small or medium-sized towns are doing best, the survey said.

The new commercial Swedish radio stations which are operational since a few months, attract 14% of the potential listening audience. However: three out of four government-controlled national stations still attract most listeners.

The private stations in the Stockholm area have garnered a 24.2% audience share.

*Energy* is currently the most successful commercial radio station (12.3% share).

The most popular commercial station in Southern Sweden is *City 107* having a potential listening audience of 1.5 million. The station's management is looking for expansion. A brandnew 110 metre tall antenna tower could enable the station to cover also Malmoe and Lund, two major cities. Automatically *City 107* will then also reach Denmark's capital Copenhagen which is in a straight line only 16 kilometres apart from Malmoe, separated by the Oresund Straits. To reach Danish advertisers, a sales office has been called in to sell commercial air time. As the Swedish dialect spoken in Malmoe is similar to the Danish spoken across the Oresund, *City 107* officials do not expect language differences to be a problem. However, they're considering employing some Danish deejays. *City 107* broadcasts 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Most Danish local commercial stations are making use of low-powered txs. In the mean time a

new and stronger tx connected to the new antenna tower is in operation (Radio World).

#### BELGIUM

##### STUDIO BRUSSELS LOSES

Studio Brussels, the Belgian alternative pop music station is doing not too well. No less than 25% of its listeners are now tuning in to other radio stations. The station has a 4.5 % share. *Radio Donna* attracts triple as many listeners with a 15.4% share and the *local free radio stations* have a 10.8% share. The best listened to station is national BRT2 with a 52.3% share (FRW).

#### GERMANY

##### EUROPEAN TOP 1000

On the initiative of German station SDR-*the Suddeutscher Rundfunk*- an European top 1000 has been compiled. Ten European radio stations are cooperating. The radio stations broadcasted this super hitparade in August (FRW).

#### U.S.A.

##### WEWN

Religious short wave broadcaster WEWN based in Birmingham, Alabama, is now making use of a 500 kW tx. European listeners can tune in between 16 and 17 UTC on 17510 kHz to catch the English service (FRW).

##### TAKE OVER

The 24 hour talk station KABC has been taken over for US\$ 9 million by rival KMPC in Los Angeles. Another Los Angeles based station, KHJ, which changed from rock to country a few years ago, has changed into a rock station under influence of its new owner, CBS Network (FRW).

##### NEW MEANS STATIONS

Radio stations in the USA can make use of a new service enabling them to be kept in the picture with the latest developments in the industry. Dallas-based Media Technology started a service called *Media Dialup* which is a kind of access to the national network of radio stations. Programmers can listen to radio stations broadcasting in other areas by dialing/using certain numbers on their telephone. The service is currently active

in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas. Furter extension is planned for the future. After dialing the telephone number of Media Technology, one can dial \*6 for a station on a higher frequency and \*4 for a station down the band. Only subscribers may use the service (FRW).

#### MULTI FORMAT

Have you ever heard of a station putting out more than 10 different *formats* in one week? The management of KFMB, an American station, was very surprised the station's ratings had dramatically gone downwards: 1.7% compared to 4.8% one year ago. Therefore the name of the station was changed into *KFMB San Diego's Great Radio Experience*. Operation manager Tracy Johnson declares: "we try to make the new format as attractive as possible for all potential listeners within our reception area. We try to achieve this goal providing as much variation as possible." KFMB doesn't have just *one* format but a format consisting of a number of different formats. It can happen that on a certain day only Elvis hits are being played while the other day music from Walt Disney movies is to be heard. A third day disco, a 4th day classic rock etc. Not everyone is satisfied. A number of advertisers resigned their contracts while many new advertisers joined. During the station's evening news show the format of the following day is being discussed with the listeners via telephone (FRW).

#### DATABANK

Winning Edge Productions & Software has developed software providing all sort of info regarding radio stations being active in the USA. The databank is approachable via the computer networks Cumuserv, Broadcast Professionals Forum and Prodigy. Apart from the station call, the computer px contains info about frequencies, formats, transmitting locations, addresses, telephone & fax numbers and owners. At least six times a year the service is being updated (FRW).

#### CANADA

##### NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Canadian radio stations are fighting against the recession, finding creative and sometimes unorthodox ways to stay afloat while waiting for better times. Without a doubt, a key weapon in their arsenal is *technology* as proven by CNKR & CJOJ



in Ontario. But three stations in New Brunswick, which formerly were in a competitive situation, have a unique operating arrangement that improves the bottom line for all involved. The economical use of technology begins with stations digitizing their control rooms. This means installing computer-addressable equipment that is automated rather than operated by staff. The trend continues when station link their control rooms into remote feeds either from syndicated satellite services or programmes produced by their corporate network. The result: radio stations that sound as good, or better than before but that do not cost as much to run, particularly when it comes to staffing. An example is CKNR serving Elliot Lake. CNKR was looking for more *local flavor* as part of their output. The solution was the installment of an automation system coordinating the mixing of the network feed with locally produced items stored on hard disk. As a result the station does sound very local, even knowing the station is part of and getting its feed from network. There is local weather, local commercials, local liners about things happening in the community and so on. *Automation, satellite feeds and networking* helped keep the station alive by cutting costs without cutting quality or ratings. Another example- CJOJ in Belleville-signed on last December not with a staff of 22 as originally projected but with just 14 thanks to computerized technology which includes sourcing all music from four 100-disk CD juke boxes.

#### NOT AM STEREO AGAIN

To Canadian broadcasters, this possibility raises an ugly demon from the depths of

their memories: namely, AM stereo. AM stereo is a complete and utter flop in Canada. The lack of receivers (except in Chrysler cars) ensured that the technology is about as popular with consumers as quadraphonic and 8-track tape. This means that stations that paid to install AM stereo essentially wasted their money; something that they don't want to do again (Radio World).

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

In tourist brochures, Prague is usually described as a city that loves *classical music*. But each day, some 140,000 listeners here in the Czech capital and its surrounding area tune in to *country music* on 24-hour Country Radio at 89.5 FM.

The popularity of the genre in the heart of Eastern Europe gives a good feel for just how dramatically programming has diversified in this region since the collapse of communism. Prior to Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution in 1989, state radio stations largely played classical music, while the revolution-era pirate stations uniformly played classic rock.

Today there are 14 private radio stations in Prague. Stations have differentiated according to type of music, emphasis on talk and news shows, and even, in one case, the use of both Czech- and English-language programmes.

Country Radio operates today with a budget of some US\$ 350,000 annually and a staff of 22. The 1 kW station began with Soviet-era equipment rented from state radio and broadcasted only 6 or 7 hours a day using the station manager's personal turntable from home! That

resulted in three to five-second delays every time a song was cued up. Currently most equipment has been replaced by much more modern western. The heart of the studio is a 16 channel Soundcraft mixing board and commercials and jingles are played and produced with the help of mini discs.

In April, Country Radio took another step forward by expanding onto the AM band, thus reaching listeners whose radios cannot receive FM. It's a fact many people still have only the Soviet-era radios. Station-manager Petera: "we are settling the airwaves a little like Europeans first settled America. Slowly and modestly but with a lot of enthusiasm." (Radio World)

#### IRELAND

##### COMMERCIAL RADIO

Plans for a new Irish commercial radio station with a nationwide coverage seem to become reality. Two years ago the first national commercial station, Century Radio, went bankrupt. Three existing local stations, 98FM, FM104 (both Dublin-based) and Cork 96FM have submitted an application to obtain a licence for a nationwide network. In addition 10 new organisations have submitted an application. The Independent Radio and Television Commission will make a decision within a limited period □

Patrick Travers is looking for a sample of the WORLD MUSIC RADIO EP which was published in the early 1970s (1973 we believe). If you can help: Write to: 49 West Bank Drive, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7JG in England.

##### Cont. Artiom reports.

from October 1993. The programme on 3907 lasted until 23.05 UTC and was followed by a qso including RWBI, SHR and RR. During the next two hours OP Victor of RR throw light on his station. It's located on a distance of 2 kilometres from SHR's location in the very same town. Victor uses a home-made 150W tx and an Inverted V aerial, hanging some 35 metres above the ground. In his studio he uses a semi-professional German 6-channel mixing desk, a cassette deck, a reel-to-reel tape recorder and a microphone (I must say that despite Victor has no deejay experience, his station sounds rather professional). Victor also possesses a 100W FM tx and he offered Igor a FM

relay in stereo. Also our southern friends would like to get recordings of other Russian and foreign stations to relay on FM and SW thus continuing their 'courses' being real radio pirates. By the way: during the pxs all three stations mentioned the following address: P.O.Box 29, Moscow 109444 in Russia. If someone in Europe heard the conversations or programmes, please drop us a line. I hope that these stations become real radio pirates in future (just remember RWBI's experience with Radio Black Sea Int./Radio 75!). Well, that was all for this time. See you next time. Yours truly, Artiom from Moscow □

##### ALTERNATIVE (PIRATE) MEDIUM WAVE NEWS



Via:  
D.P.R.S., 12 Dorman Road  
Preston, PR2 6AS, England

# HERBIE'S MEMOIRS

Have you ever had a dream? About something that seemed logical to realise but when it came to the point, wasn't? Well, the Jungle Rock story is such a dream. A dream that was almost realised, but in the end appeared to be a complete disaster. However, Jungle Rock got very far in the Dutch frequency application procedure (further for example than well established radio stations like Sky Radio, Radio 538 and Happy RTL Radio) but not far enough to be granted a national AM frequency.

In the Spring of 1992 the Dutch government granted some temporary FM stereo licenses to Sky Radio, RTL Radio and Radio 10 Gold for the rebroadcasting of their satellite signal. Officially, this had to be seen as an "experiment" because the Dutch government didn't like to give away these frequencies, but just had to because of the fact that in the European Union there may not be any form of discrimination towards commercial radio stations. Basically, if a Dutch station is allowed to broadcast via terrestrial transmitters and cable in the Netherlands, foreign stations from other EU-countries should have this chance as well. Under these European laws the Dutch government already had to give in its laws banning any form of domestic commercial broadcasting. If the Dutch hadn't done that, foreign commercial radio stations would have taken over the Dutch broadcast spectrum entirely, and there wouldn't be have been any controllable Dutch commercial radio stations. After the laws accepting Dutch commercial radio were introduced, some originally "foreign" radio stations like Radio 10 Gold, Holland FM and Hit Radio also decided to become entirely Dutch and applied for a Dutch license to broadcast onto cable as an official Dutch commercial radio station. Hit Radio changed its name then into Radio 538. Other stations, like Sky Radio, remained foreign, because- once again- onto European laws a foreign station may not be discriminated against a Dutch one, so in theory it wouldn't have made that much difference. It was around this time that I got the idea for Jungle Rock. If you want to have a slight chance as a commercial broadcasting radio station in the Netherlands, you need a large cable-coverage. With the current fierce competition and the costs for running a satellite radio station, you'd need a marketshare of at least 3%. If you have less than that,

advertisers are not interested in your station, because the reach is too small. And to gain a marketshare of at least 3%, you'd need a solid, stable and commercial programming plus at least 4 million cable-households which could potentially listen to your radio station via cable. The cable companies are usually ruled by local city councils, and thus you have to come up with a format that's both appealing to politicians as well as listeners. If the local politicians don't like your station, you'll get no frequency and of the listeners don't like it, you won't get any advertisers because the advertisers only come if you can prove that you have listeners (and that is of course on the basis of your marketshare).

At one night I had a brainstorming session with some old friends of mine: Ronald Thonhauzer who was a co-founder of Greenpeace in the early 70s and his girlfriend Petra Lugtenburg who's father was the manager in chief of the well-known Dutch public broadcasting organisation AVRO in the 50s and 60s. Together we decided to launch a foundation Eco International with the purpose to start up a radio station with a rock format, that would also give a lot of information about the state of environment. We started contracting cable companies, and after approx. 9 months (early 1993) we already had 2 million cable-households if we'd have started broadcasting at that time. In the meantime it was obvious that the Dutch government would release more terrestrial frequencies for commercial broadcasting and we decided to wait for this. Because with two million cable-households you only be able to reach those people who'd be able to listen during daytime hours in the living room to the radio. The living room in a house is usually the only place where the radio is connected to the cable. Because this is also the place where the TV is connected to the cable, you'd have tough competition from television in the evening hours. And the fact that the cable-radio can't be received by people at work or in their cars basically means that during daytime prime-time listening hours, you'd only reach the people who'd be at home in the middle of the day: the ill, the unemployed and the housewives. This is also the main reason that so-called housewives stations like Radio 10 Gold and Sky Radio do so remarkably well. The audience that likes rock music generally works or goes to

school, and thus is not able to listen to cable-radio. Therefore, waiting for the Dutch government to give out terrestrial frequencies became *inevitable*. Throughout 1993 Ronald and I were talking to some people to finance the project, and eventually we found an obvious object investment group called "Swallow". This group contained of another co-founder of Greenpeace and former Greenpeace director, Art van Remundt, a former arts-dealer who used to have galleries all over Germany called Werner Linsen and an American record producer called Eddie Singleton. The latter used to produce songs from Jackie Wilson and many other well-established artists. These 3 people promised us to support us with all the money we needed, and regularly flew to Amsterdam to have discussions with us and if they came they stayed in expensive hotels etc. But when they finally had to come up with the cash, it appeared they weren't able to do this. Anyway, in October 1993 the Dutch government finally came up with the rules in which the application had to be done. There were 2 options: either be a Dutch commercial radio station or a foreign radio station with a foreign (satellite) broadcast licence. As a Dutch station, you had to have a licence to broadcast a commercial programme onto Dutch cable-systems (like Radio 10 Gold, Holland FM, Radio 538 and Radio Noordzee). And if you wanted to have a terrestrial frequency without having this licence, you could apply for the cable-licence at the same time that you applied for the terrestrial licence. In the latter case, you'd have to prove that you already would be able to cover at least 30% of all the Dutch cable-households at the start of your trms, and 60% after a year of broadcasting. This would mean that the licence could be revoked if you wouldn't reach the 60% after a year.

So, with Jungle Rock we chose for the 2nd option and decided to go foreign. Peter Moore still had a satellite broadcast licence that was used by Radio caroline on Astra at the time, and that licence was still valid! With this licence, Jungle Rock would be having a very good chance to get accepted by the Dutch government if also the financial situation would be secured. And how everything proceeded is something you can read in the next issue of 'FRS Goes DX'.

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**FRS GOES DX: THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION WHEN IT COMES TO FREE RADIO**

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# SW SURVEY

The SIO's are for the UK and the continent respectively. In case there's no SIO at all listed, the station was *only* logged in Scandinavia. SW addresses are to be found within the SW News column. This time we cover the period Sat June 11th-Sun August 21st 1994. Despite the poor conditions we offer a very comprehensive listing of loggings. Especially lots of activity on 76 metres!! One remark: the *UK logs* covering the last few weekends of August didn't arrive in time to be included. Our apologies.

## SATURDAY JUNE 11th 1994

3908	22.50	Starshine	---	333
3920	23.09	SF03	---	343
3920	23.39	Wave Radio	---	444
3920	23.40	Jimmy	---	444
3920	23.57	Starshine	---	454
3945	23.25	Live Wire	---	444
6207	22.20	Radio Nord	---	333
6207	23.20	Unid (RTL)	---	333
6268	09.53	Unid (RTL)	---	433
6295	21.08	---	---	322
6399	20.13	Magnum AM	---	333
6399	23.48	Angel	---	322
6530	10.10	Radio Live	---	333
6911	23.00	Radio Dublin	---	333
7125	11.01	GBMS	---	444
7385	23.55	The Fox	---	211
7415	23.23	Down East R.	---	232

## SUNDAY JUNE 12th 1994

3910	20.00	Reflections	---	332
3920	19.57	Unid	---	---
3920	20.43	Radio Jimmy	---	343
3945	00.24	Live Wire Radio	---	444
6205	10.40	Reflections	---	322
6207	08.25	Radio Nord	---	433
6220	09.28	Wave Radio	---	444
6225	10.10	Unid	---	222
6229	08.28	Jolly Roger	---	232
6233	20.05	Speranza	---	333
6240	11.40	Unid	---	232
6260	11.35	Unid	---	232
6278	09.14	FRS London	---	333
6399	06.16	Angel	---	333
6530	20.05	Radio Live	---	343
6911	07.00	Radio Dublin	---	333
7294	08.05	Radio Europe	---	332
7385	00.43	The Fox	---	211
7385	00.44	Baby Pirate (?)	---	211
12255	12.15	Reflections	---	444

## SATURDAY JUNE 18th 1994

3905	22.06	Scand. BC	---	444
3905	22.31	R. Amazonia	---	444
3910	22.58	Unid	---	343

3921	23.48	Radio Daiwa	---	444	6530	08.25	Radio Live (?)	---	333
3921	23.58	Starshine	---	444	6560	07.48	Radio Brigitte	---	333
3926	23.50	Pirana	---	433	6911	09.12	Radio Dublin	242	444
3945	23.45	Subterranean S.	---	444	7294	07.45	Radio Europe	---	444
6206	07.37	Radio Nord	---	343	7373	09.27	WGAS	---	343
6207	10.12	Unid	---	---	7380	09.30	Idea Radio	---	242
6911	09.29	Radio Dublin	---	---	7398	09.35	WGAS	---	333
7125	11.30	Southern Music	---	444	12255	08.58	Wrekin' Radio	---	322
7294	08.48	Sunshine Radio	---	343	12265	16.55	Reflections	---	242

## SUNDAY JUNE 19th 1994

3910	00.13	Starshine Radio	---	343	3905	21.59	R.Titanic Int.	---	343
3910	17.02	Reflections	---	433	3906	23.05	RWB1	---	222
3911	00.14	Pacman	---	343	3910	22.10	Starshine R.	---	434
3912	00.05	Pacman	---	333	3910	22.30	Daiwa	---	333
3918	17.53	Jimmy	---	443	3910	22.40	Heavy Dude R.	---	444
3920	17.55	Jimmy	---	443	3913	23.19	R. Moonlight	---	444
3920	00.04	Starshine	---	444	3913	23.24	Starshine Radio	---	444
3920	17.53	Meteoor	---	443	3938	22.45	Moonlight	---	444
3921	00.04	Daiwa	---	444	3938	23.20	Daiwa	---	333
3921	17.46	Daiwa	---	443	3945	22.535	Subterranean S.	---	222
3939	18.05	Moonlight	---	444	6206	13.34	Holland FM	---	253
6205	17.01	Reflections	454	333	6207	09.40	Radio Nord	---	333
6207	08.59	Radio Nord	---	433	7125	11.20	Radio Sparks	---	444
6229	06.46	Jolly Roger R.	444	232	7125	12.20	Intern. Music R.	---	444
6233	18.00	Speranza	---	443	7294	10.50	Shamrock Radio	---	444
6260	10.49	Geronimo	---	333					
6276	10.50	Pirana	---	343					
6280	07.50	Unid	---	222					
6290	08.58	NAPRS	---	333					
6295	11.12	Unid	---	222					
6295	18.30	Laser Hot Hits	454	444					
6400	09.18	Angel	555	443					
6530	10.20	Radio Live	---	333					
6911	06.52	Radio Dublin	343	232					
12255	17.50	Reflections	---	344					

## SATURDAY JUNE 25th 1994

6207	21.18	Radio Nord	---	333	6205	15.00	Reflections	555	333
6210	09.37	Lighnting Int.	242	---	6206	07.29	Holland FM	---	343
6255	23.23	Pirana	---	333	6207	07.54	Star Club	---	422
6911	06.34	Radio Dublin	232	---	6207	08.58	Radio Nord Int.	1	332
7385	01.25	Radio Magic	---	222	6210	11.52	Ozone (?)	---	232
3910	09.36	Daiwa	---	343	6225	07.04	Emerald Radio	343	232
3910	20.00	Reflections	---	222	6229	08.49	Jolly Roger	232	332
3938	09.44	Moonlight	---	232	6255	08.48	East Coast C..	544	232
6205	15.50	Reflections	454	333	6255	10.17	East Coast C.	1	---
6207	09.11	Radio Nord	---	333	6289	09.30	Unid	---	222
6210	09.44	Unid	---	---	6290	08.37	Nordlicht	1	433
6229	08.20	Jolly Roger R.	232	232	6400	09.02	Angel	555	333
6237	08.47	Radio Mike	---	232	6400	13.00	WNKR	---	322
6255	07.28	Pirana	---	343	6911	07.05	Radio Dublin	242	--2
6259	11.07	Unid	---	333	7294	08.35	Radio Europe	---	--4
6266	08.28	Transatlantic R.	---	333	7398	10.52	WGAS (?)	---	232
6279	09.52	Unid	---	222	7465	10.20	Unid	---	--4
6400	07.55	WNKR	---	433	12255	15.55	Reflections	---	232
6400	09.20	Angel	242	433	12265	10.52	Unid (WRI?)	---	152
					12265	08.15	Wrekin' Radio	---	333

## SATURDAY JULY 9th 1994

3905	16.55	Meteoor	---	444
3905	22.05	Jimmy	---	443



3910	22.59	Pirana	---	322	6207	09.15	Radio Nord	---	222	6400	07.50	WNKR	444	433
3911	23.03	Kijkuit/Lookout	---	322	6217	09.20	Dr.Tim	---	131	7294	07.00	Europe	---	444
3912	23.21	Pacman	---	333	6229	09.05	Jolly Roger R.	242	222	7294	08.03	Level 48	---	444
3931	22.46	Pacman	---	222	6229	12.41	Marabu	343	---	7294	09.05	Marabu	---	444
3931	23.32	Pacman	---	333	6233	09.03	Unid	--1	333	7294	09.45	Sunshine	---	444
3932	22.40	Pacman	---	333	6255	10.36	XTC	--1	343					
6207	23.20	Radio Nord	---	121	6266	10.59	BBMS	333	222					
6292	22.17	Armadillo	---	222	6280	08.44	Transat. Radio	232	222					
6399	22.15	Angel Int.	---	443	6288	09.46	Dr. Tim	--1	433					
6911	09.02	Radio Dublin	232	444	6400	06.50	Angel Int.	---	444					
7125	11.10	Fantasy	---	444	6400	09.02	WNKR	454	433					
7125	12.15	Marabu	---	444	6911	09.16	Radio Dublin	242	232					
7294	09.10	Level 48	---	444										
7294	09.15	Joystick	---	444										
7294	09.30	Europe	---	--4										

SUNDAY JULY 10th 1994

3910	15.06	Reflections	232	--	3905	22.00	Dr.Tim	---	332	3906	22.47	RWB1	---	222
3932	00.20	Moonlight	---	222	3915	23.45	RWB1	---	322	3927	16.38	WMS	333	--
3945	00.13	Unid	---	333	3927	22.10	WMS	---	232	3930	16.40	Live Wire R.	444	--
3945	00.15	Kijkuit/Lookout	---	333	3927	22.35	S. Foxtrott 03	---	232	3932	19.14	Lookout R.	444	--
6205	15.05	Reflections	555	222	3932	22.35	Pluto	---	222	3933	19.09	Delta Bravo	333	--
6207	09.03	Radio Nord	---	222	6229	10.14	Britain Radio	322	---	3945	16.31	WMS	444	--
6210	09.35	Ozone	---	222	6911	08.49	Radio Dublin	--1	--	3945	16.33	Live Wire R.	544	--
6211	08.17	SWR	--1	444	7125	11.02	Pamela	---	444	6232	10.40	Unid	222	--
6232	00.07	Unid	---	121	7125	12.05	Stardust	---	444	6399	09.35	Angel Int.	544	333
6235	07.24	Laser Hot Hits	232	232	7125	12.35	Hoch-Weisel	---	444	7125	11.05	Radio Pamela	---	444
6235	09.05	Britain Radio	454	222						7125	12.05	Radio Stardust	---	444
6238	08.59	Radio Mike	222	433						7125	12.35	R. Hoch-Weisel	---	444
6251	08.30	Unid	---	222										
6290	09.10	Unid	---	221										
6295	00.06	WGAS	---	444										
6400	07.30	Angel Int.	---	433										
6400	08.19	WNKR	555	333										
6911	08.21	Radio Dublin	242	222										
7294	06.50	Europe	---	333										
7294	08.11	Level 48	---	333										
7359	09.24	WGAS	---	443										
7480	08.20	Benelux (?)	242	--										
12225	17.00	Reflections	---	333										

SATURDAY JULY 16th 1994

3909	22.25	S. Hobby Radio	---	322	3910	00.10	Starshine	---	232	3910	00.10	Starshine	---	232
3910	23.26	S. Foxtrott 03	---	343	3915	01.35	Starshine	---	322	3915	01.35	Starshine	---	322
3910	23.27	Live Wire Radio	---	444	3927	22.10	WMS	---	232	3927	22.10	WMS	---	232
3932	22.53	Dr.Tim	---	322	6205	16.14	Reflections	555	---	6205	16.14	Reflections	555	---
3932	23.40	Kijkuit/lookout	---	222	6207	08.35	Radio Nord	---	333	6225	09.36	Unid	---	343
3938	23.20	Moonlight	---	333	6229	08.20	Jolly Roger R.	343	232	6229	08.20	Jolly Roger R.	343	232
3943	22.48	Pacman	---	333	6269	09.20	Unid	---	222	6269	09.20	Unid	---	222
3945	23.08	Subterranean S.	---	444	6300	10.50	Unid	---	222	6300	10.50	Unid	---	222
6275	08.41	Unid	---	354	6400	06.40	Angel Radio	---	333	6400	06.40	Angel Radio	---	333
6400	21.50	Angel Int.	---	333	6400	08.59	WNKR	555	333	6400	16.00	Optimod	---	322
6911	21.45	Radio Dublin	---	322	6911	09.00	Radio Dublin	---	232	6911	09.00	Radio Dublin	---	232
7125	11.02	Joystick	---	444	7360	09.02	R.101	---	222	7360	09.02	R.101	---	222

SATURDAY JULY 30th 1994

3911	22.30	RWB1	---	--	3918	23.45	Starshine	---	--	3930	23.30	R.Driland	---	222
3915	23.15	RWB1	---	--	6229	09.05	Jolly Roger	333	232	6229	13.05	Fantasy	---	444
3918	23.45	Starshine	---	--	7125	14.20	Dino Radio	---	444	7125	14.20	Dino Radio	---	444
3930	23.30	R.Driland	---	--	7294	07.45	Radio Europe	---	443	7294	07.45	Radio Europe	---	443
6229	09.05	Jolly Roger	333	232	7294	08.40	Onda Caliente	---	444	7294	09.58	Radio Marabu	---	444
7125	13.05	Fantasy	---	444	7361	09.25	Radio 101	---	232	7361	09.25	Radio 101	---	232
7125	14.20	Dino Radio	---	444	12255	17.00	Reflections	---	332	12255	17.00	Reflections	---	332
7471	00.06	R. Free Euph.	---	131	12265	07.40	Wrekin' Radio	---	343	12265	07.40	Wrekin' Radio	---	343

SUNDAY JULY 31st 1994

6207	07.00	Radio Nord	222	322	6229	08.40	Jolly Roger R.	344	232	6260	11.00	Driland	---	222
6260	11.00	Driland	---	222	6305	06.30	La Voz del CID	---	333	6305	06.30	La Voz del CID	---	333
6400	06.35	Angel Int.	---	444										

SATURDAY AUGUST 6th 1994 \*

3906	22.47	RWB1	---	222	3927	16.38	WMS	333	--	3930	16.40	Live Wire R.	444	--
3927	16.38	WMS	333	--	3930	16.40	Live Wire R.	444	--	3932	19.14	Lookout R.	444	--
3930	16.40	Live Wire R.	444	--	3932	19.14	Lookout R.	444	--	3933	19.09	Delta Bravo	333	--
3945	16.31	WMS	444	--	3945	16.33	Live Wire R.	544	--	3945	16.33	Live Wire R.	544	--
3945	16.33	Live Wire R.	544	--	6232	10.40	Unid	222	--	6232	10.40	Unid	222	--

SUNDAY AUGUST 7th 1994 \*

3900	17.15	Unid	---	--	3913	09.35	Moonlight	111	--	3945	00.40	Subterranean S.	---	333
3913	09.35	Moonlight	111	--	3945	00.40	Subterranean S.	444	--	3945	12.05	Subterranean S.	444	--
3945	00.40	Subterranean S.	444	--	3945	12.35	Live Wire R.	444	--	3945	12.35	Live Wire R.	444	--
3945	12.05	Subterranean S.	444	--	3945	12.54	SF03	222	--	3945	12.54	SF03	222	--
3945	12.35	Live Wire R.	444	--	6206	09.50	Radio Nord	222	232	6206	09.50	Radio Nord	222	232
6206	09.50	Radio Nord	222	232	6210	10.05	Ozone Radio	343	333	6210	10.05	Ozone Radio	343	333
6224	09.22	Unid	---	131	6224	09.22	Unid	---	131	6224	09.22	Unid	---	131
6229	08.25	JRR	443	232	6229	09.29								



6232	11.43	Unid	---	222
6307	11.33	BBMS	---	333
7125	11.05	Radio Pamela	---	444
7125	12.07	Radio Stardust	---	444
7125	12.40	R. Hoch-Weisel	---	444

**SUNDAY AUGUST 14th 1994 \***

3900	16.55	Radio Meteoor	---	---
3905	10.26	Radio Delmare	---	232
3905	10.34	Unid	---	222
3910	20.06	Reflections	---	---
3931	13.45	Pamela	222	---
3932	10.19	R. Moonlight	---	333
3932	17.00	R.Jimmy	---	---
3945	13.30	WMS	333	---
3945	13.30	Live Wire R.	444	---
6206	09.36	Radio Nord	---	333
6210	09.48	Ozone Radio	343	222
6229	09.10	JRR	444	232
6229	09.49	BRI	444	332
6232	09.48	Unid	---	222
6255	08.44	Radio Pirana	---	343
6255	09.08	MOA Offsh.	444	333
6275	09.17	Radio Orion	444	323
6275	10.30	XTC	343	333
6280	10.22	Unid	---	544
6285	09.14	Radio Pirana	---	443
6290	10.20	Unid (Dutch)	---	343
6307	09.37	BBMS	444	333
6400	11.41	WNKR	554	333
6911	11.30	Radio Dublin	433	343
7294	07.45	Radio Europe	---	444
7294	09.53	Onde Caliente	---	---
7362	08.10	Radio 101	---	232
9942	22.09	La Voz del Cid	---	---

3945	23.39	Live Wire R.	---	444
6207	17.55	Radio Baltic Int.	---	---
6207	2.20	Radio baltic Int.	---	433
6225	21.40	Radio Esoterica	---	222
6225	21.15	Radio Lollipop	---	333
6225	22.30	Solid Rock R.	---	333
6225	23.10	NAPRS	---	333
6911	20.15	Radio Dublin	---	433
7125	11.20	SMR	---	444
7125	12.15	R.Casablanca	---	---
7294	08.30	Radio Marabu	---	444

**SUNDAY AUGUST 21st 1994 \***

3905	17.30	Radio Jimmy	---	---
3910	00.05	Radio Perfect	---	222
3911	08.25	Radio Daiwa	---	333
3913	09.09	R.Moonlight	---	433
3943	00.04	Radio Pacman	---	333
3945	00.08	Starshine R.	---	333
6207	08.00	Radio Baltic Int.	---	333
6207	08.45	Radio Amazonia	---	333
6225	09.05	Laser Hot Hits	---	333
6229	08.20	JRR	---	222
6253	09.35	Unid	---	222
6257	08.47	SMR	---	333
6257	09.34	Radio Perfect	---	333
6260	11.30	Radio Driland	---	333
6399	09.05	Angel Int.	---	333
6399	11.05	WNKR	---	333
6911	09.30	Radio Dublin	---	333
7294	07.05	Radio Europe	---	444
7480	08.55	Radio Benelux	---	---

**CONDITIONS/GENERAL**

Also during this Summer period conditions were (very) poor. This resulted in low activity on 48 & 41 metres where long skip remained ruling the waves and lots of activity on 76 metres, in particular (but not only) on Saturday evenings & nights. Although the Summer period's often characterized by *inactivity* on the bands, the contrary was the case as far as 76 metres is concerned. 48 mb was an interesting band during (Sat) nighttime when signals travel much further.

All in all this SW Survey is a very comprehensive one which can be attributed to the great number of different stations which were observed in the past 2 months and a half.

Remarkable is the high number of Dutch stations on 3.9 Mhz. It's a pity most stations use 76 metres only for qso-ing. Why not putting out programmes so now and then??? Only a handful of stations seem to be interested in putting out some kind of programming. It looks like 41 metres isn't used that much on a regular basis. Besides a number of tests and two Radio Benelux broadcast only very little activity was

noted. One of our loggers described the conditions after another disappointing Sunday (July 24th) as follows: "Another frustrating Sunday with almost nothing heard... This must now be the longest period I can ever remember in which reception conditions have been so poor for so long." No further comment needed, it speaks for itself!! Although the situation is frustrating we may not miss this opportunity to report that for instance WNKR/Radio Angel are putting out fine 6400 kHz signals almost weekly and also on 3.9 MHz strong signals were noted!!

More and more German station resort to Italy where the powerful IRRS tx guarantees a high quality signal on 7125 kHz. Among the stations leasing air time also several newcomers but that was already reported in FRSGDX 130. Even British Radio Pamela was noted on 7125 in July!! Let's hope as Autumn is gradually approaching, things will improve a bit. In the second half of September propagation could become better but it remains to be seen to what extend...

**THE 76 MB REPORT**

The July/August period was a very good time for those often tuning in to 76 metres. It rarely happens that *so many different stations* were active, often on one particular evening/night. Remarkable is that 76 mb is not only an evening/nighttime band anymore. Frequently stations are observed during the daytime and in the late afternoon. And often stations are active during 'normal' weekdays rather than the Saturday evening/night. Here are some statistics showing the activity on a couple of Saturday nights on the 76 mb:

- Saturday June 11th 5 stations
- Saturday June 18th 11 stations
- Saturday July 2nd 12 stations
- Saturday July 9th 8 stations
- Saturday July 16th 8 stations
- Saturday July 23rd 6 stations
- Saturday July 30th 3 stations
- Saturday August 6th 9 stations
- Saturday August 13th 10 stations
- Saturday August 20th 17 stations

A number of new stations have been heard on 76 mb during the past two months. For instance a Dutch station called **RADIO VIKING** being heard a couple of times in June and July. The first time was June 10th on 3920 kHz. Add is Box ???, 7720 AC Dalfsen in the Netherlands (perhaps Box 71 or Box 108). Another newcomer is **WMS** testing in English on 3927 kHz Sat July 23rd and

**SATURDAY AUGUST 20th 1994 \***

3900	18.25	R.Black Eagle	---	333
3900	18.27	Radio Viking	---	222
3900	18.30	Int. Music Radio	---	333
3900	18.35	Radio Meteoor	---	444
3900	22.25	Lollipop	---	222
3905	22.05	Starshine R.	---	333
3905	22.10	Radio Jimmy	---	333
3905	22.53	IMR	---	333
3910	21.10	IMR	---	222
3910	22.07	SMR	---	222
3910	23.21	Radio Perfect	---	222
3913	23.19	Radio Lookout	---	333
3915	23.18	Starshine R.	---	333
3919	22.14	Starshine R.	---	333
3932	22.56	Unid (Pluto?)	---	131
3932	23.35	Radio Pacman	---	333
3937	23.51	IMR	---	333
3938	23.37	R. Moonlight	---	444
3943	23.44	Radio Pacman	---	333
3944	23.44	Radio Pamela	---	222
3945	22.57	Subterranean S.	---	333
3945	23.30	SF03	---	222
3945	23.38	Starshine R.	---	131



Sun July 24th. The station was also noted during a few occasions in August. Although we're not 100% certain, we assume it's an UK-based operation. **ZENDER EVERY DAY** was first heard July 3rd on 3900 and **LOOK OUT** made it to the airwaves in the afternoon of Sun July 10th on 3945 and also August 20th. Addresses of the latter two stations are unknown. Anyone who can help?? German station **RADIO DRILAND** was heard on 3931 July 30th and veteran broadcaster **RADIO TITANIC INT.** (add=1) was relayed via Russian RWBI. Here's a listing of Dutch stations which were regularly noted on 76 metres. For frequency details etc. please take a look in the FRS Logbook! **RADIO JIMMY** was noted on several dates and frequencies. Fair signals were heard during the station's qso's. **RADIO DAIWA**: Box 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen. Was very active (qso-ing) in June on different channels with often strong signals. **RADIO PACMAN**: not a 76 mb-only station. Mostly being noted around 3910 kHz. Address is Box 103, 8120 AC Olst. **RADIO MOONLIGHT** is a regular user of 76 metres. Can be found in the 3930-3940 kHz section of the band. Add

(5). Most regular British station is **SUB-TERRANEAN SOUNDS**. The station always uses 3945 kHz and in July and August several broadcasts were being put out. Subterranean Sounds is one of the few stations also putting out programmes. Signals on the continent are fine! Add is (3). Staying in Great Britain: **LIVE WIRE RADIO** keeps on rocking and was quite regular active on several frequencies within the 3900-3945 kHz section of the band. Always with excellent signals. August 20th Bill announced to be on the air with a power of 100W. Address is (2). So far not mentioned are **SIERRA FOX-TROT 03** and **RADIO PLUTO**, two stations who are so now and then active on 76 metres. SF03 was noted several times in July, for instance July 16th & 23rd when the OP was calling cq. Wednesday is a popular day among Dutch pirates for qso-ing. For instance on July 12th a great number of stations were active on 3.9 MHz. A new German station is **RADIO AMAZONIA** which was heard June 18th via the tx of the Scandinavian Broadcasting Corporation. Frequency was 3905 kHz. **INT. MUSIC RADIO** from Switzerland (?) was heard putting out cq calls on Sat August 20th on

station info. The defunct German station Radio Victoria set the trend to make use of the facilities of other well-equipped stations. Victoria used to hire airtime via Radio Milano Int. in Italy on 7295 kHz. This brought other station OPs on the idea to do the same. Charlie Prince presented a number of shows on Radio Victoria and then decided to set up his own SW free radio station. Early 1985, when the computer boom began, he and a few other persons decided to choose for a name within the field of computer technology. Radio Joystick was born! The record library contained a song which could be perfectly used as station theme tune: "Joystick", a song from the Dazz band. March 1985 Radio Joystick made a request to lease airtime via Radio Milano Int. They made their request in the Italian language and already in July of that year-July 14th- a first test was radiated across Europe on 7295 kHz with a 1 kW tx and on AM 1301 kHz with 5 kW. This test was repeated on a weekly basis in the period July 14th- August 31st 1985. Almost 100 reception reports (Sweden, GDR etc.) were received in this 6 week period.

Several record companies were contacted and Radio Joystick received records, cassettes for very low prices.

September 7th 1985 marked the official start of Radio Joystick. A two hour show was broadcasted in which soul, funk & disco music set the tone. Most shows were repeated once a month.

At the end of February 1986, the Joystick test was repeated via the transmitting facilities of Radio 101 on 7350 kHz. The latter station was a German station, based in Ireland. This resulted in a little confusion 'cause the mailing address which was mentioned in that test (which was the one aired during the 1985 Summer) was no longer valid.

From April till June 1986 deejays Dieter, Michael and Pete presented two programmes: 'Intodisco' and 'Soundcheck'. September 1986 saw the station's first anniversary and listeners who showed interest received FREE HiFi studio copies of the Birthday Show. It was during this period that Radio Berlin Int. started to use Radio Milano Int.'s 7295 spot on the dial.

By the end of January 1987 the RMI tx in Milano went silent but this was NOT the end of Radio Joystick! The station continued with 30 min. shows relayed via Radio 101 in Ireland and 90 min. shows which were run by German free radio station Radio Tutenchamun.



is same as Radio Daiwa. **RADIO METEOOR** put out an Int. show in English & Dutch Sun July 3rd at 19.00 UTC. Had a fine signal that evening. Add is Box 71, 7720 AB Dalfsen. Scandinavian **STAR-SHINE RADIO** was heard a great number of times around 3910 qso-ing with Dutchies and other stations. For instance on June 19th. July 2nd the station suffered problems with the antenna system. Add is

various frequencies including 3900, 3905, 3910 and 3937. Obviously a VFO-controlled tx was being used (like many colleague 76 mb stations). Add is Yves, Box 1951, 79554 Wel am Rhein in Germany. **RADIO LOLLIPOP** and **RADIO PERFECT** are German stations, also being active on 76 metres.

**RADIO JOYSTICK** sent us their latest



During 1988 Joystick was heard twice via the Scottish Free Radio Network. Radio 101 and Tutenchamun each also relayed Joystick twice. In the period 1989-1993 Joystick was hardly active. The following relay stations were also used: Radio Europe (Italy), Radio Orion & Radio Waves Int. February 1993 Radio Helgoland aired a 90 minute Joystick relay.

Several hundreds of

letters were received from the following countries: Germany, GDR, Great-Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Algeria, the Channel Islands, Sweden, Austria, Spain, Finland, Belgium, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

The station can be contacted via P.O.Box 100812, D-45408 Muelheim an der Ruhr in Germany. Even better is to write to the well-known Wuppertal address (1). When sending the station a personal letter along with a reception report, in return you will receive info-sheets, a qsl and a few stickers. Make sure sufficient return postage is enclosed.

Charlie Prince, the station OP, was also active on FM station Radio Telstar in Belgium and German SW stations Radio Batida (Oct. 1988- May 1989) and Starfleet Radio (1990).

Since May 1987 Joystick records all programming in a well-equipped studio. The following equipment is being used:

- \* Vivanco mixing desk MX 850
- \* two Philips CD players CD 164/CD 600
- \* two Dual turntables CS 630 Q
- \* Aiwa cassette recorder F 350
- \* Nakamichi cassette recorder BX-125E
- \* ASC cassette deck AS 3000
- \* Vivanco microphone EM 50
- \* AKG headphones K-141M
- \* DBX compressor-limiter 166

Nearly 100 jingles have been produced for Radio Joystick/Charlie Prince by two companies: JB Productions and B&M Productions in Amsterdam.



The Joystick music library contains more than 700 record albums, 200 CDs, more than 400 maxi singles, 400 singles and 140 cassettes. All music is stored into a computer making use of special software. Salient detail: Radio Joystick doesn't have a joystick at its disposal.

From almost all Radio Joystick transmissions, studio copies can be obtained. A 120 minute chrome cassette costs DM 20.00. Very good audio quality is guaranteed! Sat July 9th Radio Joystick was heard on 7294 via Radio Europe, a week later the station was relayed on 7125 via the IRRS. Both times with decent signals.

Joystick will be active via IRRS Milano September 17th and November 19th.

**TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** is a Dutch station operating from the Rotterdam area. The station has been active on a number of frequencies within the 48 mb in the past few years. Between February and early May Transatlantic was off the air due to problems with the modulator and the antenna system. May 1st the station returned at 08.30 UTC on 6248 kHz with a 60 minute programme. They have a nice looking qsl card and if you would like a studio and tx photograph, then send US\$ 2.00 to the following address: P.O.Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam in the Netherlands. By the way: the OP claims to use only 10W of power making the station one of the lowest powered stations on the SW free radio airwaves. June 26th TAR was heard with a poor mod quality, this time not on 6248 but on 6266.

Some additional info about **RADIO BLACK EAGLE**. As reported in issue

120, RBE was reported on 6205 kHz May 22nd and 23rd. 27 year old Gerard runs the station for already 12 years. He started with medium wave trms back in '82. 10 years after his debute as hobby pirate, he jumped to short wave. He built a 60W tx connected to a Inverted V aerial hanging on a height of 6 metres. In the past few years RBE was irregularly active on 7295 kHz. Sat August 20th the station was heard qso-ing on 3900 kHz. Signal was fair. Address is P.O.Box 11, 7954 ZG Rouveen in the Netherlands.

**RADIO ORANG UTAN** will recommend trms but the question is: when? Station OP Freddie has recovered from his illness and will begin with fresh courage as soon as some problems have been solved. ROU has a powerful tx which was used only twice following the raid in January. The tx is not the problem, on the contrary! Freddie has a problem with the positioning of the aerial system, so it's not a technical matter. Whether the station will return from the old location is not for sure. Address is P.O.Box 114, 7040 AC 's-Heerenberg in the Netherlands.

For those who are interested to know the link between **STAR CLUB RADIO** and **RADIO ILLUSION** the following info could be useful. Both stations are of German origin. According to SCR's Roy Clarke Ron White left SCR following the lawsuit. He didn't pay his part of the fine which was imposed on SCR. As a result Roy Clarke had to pay the fine all by himself. New persons joined SCR while Ron White founded a new station: Radio Illusion.

**SUNSHINE RADIO** is a German station which is currently active via radio Europe on 7294 kHz/USB. The station concentrates on music (rock music) interspersed with brief announcements. The station's crew replies quickly to your mail, so give it a try! Address is (4).

**RADIO BEAT 102** announced a broadcast on 6277 which should be aired May 20th. There was no 6277 log in the FRS Logbook in issue 129. Further trms were planned for June 11th and 22nd. The



address is unknown at present time.

A station calling itself **RADIO KO** intended to carry out tests June 3rd and 6th at 06.00, 09.00, 18.00 and 21.00 UTC on 6257 kHz. Prudence is called for in connection with the genuineness of this report!

**LASER HOT HITS** is a relatively new UK station having no connections with another British SW pirate of a few years ago using the same name. The station is transmitting- so we are told- with a 100W tx from a location in the Greater London area. It seems LHH is also active on FM. According to a qsl card the output on April 4th of this year was no less than 300W. So the question is whether that was a relay or a broadcast with own equipment. During a number of broadcasts the station made use of the transmitting facilities normally used by Radio Caroline (6295, tx based in Waterford, Ireland). For instance June 19th when the station was heard at a bit of an unusual time: 17.45 UTC. Signal quality was excellent. July 10th saw LHH on 6235 at 06.45 UTC in the morning putting out a poor signal in the UK (conditions?). The August 7th trm ran via the facilities of JRR on 6229. August 21st LHH was active on 6225. The address is (8) which is the Canadian Merlin address.

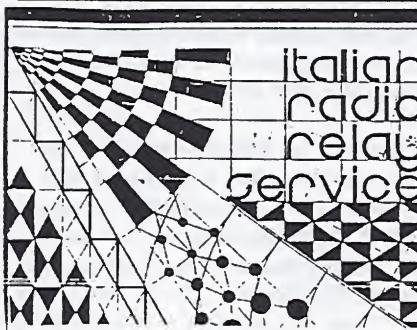
**RADIO MERLIN**'s key-figure Paul Watt had to appear in court June 12th. Three weeks earlier paul had received 18 summons (!!) for illegally broadcasting on SW. Believe it or not: 17 of the 18 charges were declared invalid and Paul was only done for the fact a radio station was in operation on his premises. Paul got a £ 500 fine. Merlin should return to the airwaves very soon and could already be back when you read this (late August/early September). Address is

**WEST & NORTH KENT RADIO** unexpectedly returned to the airwaves June 26th. Eversince weekly trms have been heard on 6400. As reported in FRSGDX edition 129 UK-based Angel Int. was raided April 7th. The raid was carried out by 5 police and 4 DTI officers and an estimated £ 3,000 worth of equipment was confiscated. May 29th the station returned on SW on 6400 kHz, apparently via the transmitting facilities of WNKR. The reason of returning is because WNKR's Dave Martin is relaying Angel every week for two hours. So as

there is room for 4 hours on the broadcast time, Dave very much wanted to put WNKR back on the air. According to Andy Walker who's doing a weekly shift on WNKR, the re-launch is very successful. The tx has an output of 50W connected to a 17m high aerial.

Angel is getting more mail than when the station used its own transmitting equipment, Reports are pouring in from all over Europe and even one report from New York was received. It must be said that the signal quality on 6400 is very good on the continent, despite the poor conditions! For reasons of security Angel is now using a new address: (4). Address WNKR: (1).

**GOOD MUSIC RADIO**, a relatively new station on SW based in the UK, can be contacted by writing to: GMR, Towers, Breccles, Suffolk in the UK.



One of the interesting developments of the past few months was the introduction of a relay service via **NEXUS/IBA/ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE**. So far the IRRS relayed programmes for organisations such as Unesco etc. Since a few months hobby pirates have been offered relays on Saturdays starting at 13.00 CE(S)T. The attractiveness is of course the fact the tx has an output of 30 KW ERP providing the whole of Europe but also parts of other continents with a fine signal. The contrast with various pirate relay services is that a frequency outside the usual pirate bands is in use (7125) and that it is not possible to have relays lasting more than two hours. A relay is not cheap but taking into account a real powerful professional outlet is being used, one cannot say the hourly price is too expensive! And a good signal is guaranteed!! No doubt the IRRS is a good substitute for stations which used to be aired via Radio Orang Utan. It will be interesting to see what some of the stations will do when

Orang Utan returns. Another remarkable result is that a number of new Swiss and German stations have resorted to make use of the IRRS tx. It concerns stations which were have never been illegally on the air. A number of (new) names were already mentioned in FRSGDX 128 & 129. For instance the new Swiss station **RADIO ART** which took to the airwaves with its debute trm July 2nd. A second transmission took place August 6th. Or **RADIO CALYPSO**, the "Sunshine Reggae Station". Here's some additional info:

The end of May saw the debute broadcast of a new Swiss station called **RADIO SPARKS** (see FRSGDX 129). Station OP is Stevie who was born in the UK. He moved to Switzerland in 1970 and in the mean time he's a Swiss citizen. The first broadcast was successful and reception reports from all over Europe and North Africa were received. Each transmission a different qsl card is available for those writing in (enclose one US dollar). Apart from the qsl you will also receive info sheets and a sticker. Radio Sparks will be active via the powerful IRRS tx on 7125 kHz at the following dates: September 3rd & November 5th 1994 and January 7th 1995. Trms start at 13.00 CE(S)T. The address: Radio Sparks, Postlagernd, CH-4010 Basel, Switzerland.

**DINO RADIO** was active on 7125 July 30th. We have no further info about this station.

**GERMAN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION** is yet another newcomer in the world of SW free radio. Because of financial reasons, no qsl cards are currently available for the listening audience. The responsible person behind GMBS is considering the idea of dropping the relays via the IRRS in Milano, Italy. Reason: finances. So far there have been a few problems. The programme tape which should have been aired April 30th (the station's debute broadcast) was accidentally mistaken with another tape (from a different station). It was promised that this tape would be aired June 11th together with GMBS' second programme tape but in the end only the April 30th tape was played and not the June 11th tape. The station planned regular monthly trms (music and a mailbag show) as from October onwards but so far no confirmation has been received. Address is GBMS, c/o Rudiger Witjes, Muhlheimer Str. 1,



D-46446 Emmerich in Germany.

**RADIO HOCH-WEISEL** started in July and was founded by DXer Jens Wantschar. His goal is providing entertainment and informing listeners about the region of Hoch-Weisel. Upcoming trms (in German & English) are planned for August 28th and November 26th. So far the station was noted three times:

July 23rd, August

6th and 13th. Address: J.W., Butzbacherstrasse 25, D-35510 Butzbach/Hoch-Weisel in Germany.

**RADIO FANTASY** were noted via the 7125 outlet Sat July 9th. The station played a lot of South American music, quite unusual for a free radio station! Those who'd like to obtain this kind of music: a cassette can be ordered for DM 25.00. The next trm is scheduled for Sat September 17th. The people behind Fantasy are intending to start operations with their own tx. However, for the time being the station depends on the facilities of the IRRS in Milano. Address: P.O.Box 1137, D-96118 Bischberg in Germany.

**RADIO PAMELA** was heard on three occasions via the IRRS on 7125 kHz: July 23rd, August 6th & 13th. **RADIO STAR-DUST** was noted on the same dates following the Pamela trms. The August 6th broadcast was a repeat of July 23rd. Addresses are unknown.

**RADIO EUROPE** from Pioltello, Italy is carrying more and more pirate radio stations with an official schedule of Saturdays from 08.30-12.00 UTC. The station has been heard on many occasions with free radio relays on Sun mornings. The frequency to look out for is 7294 kHz but make sure you switch your receiver into USB mode to hear them. The address to write to is c/o Play DX, Via Davanzati 8, I-20158 Milano in Italy. They also have a fan club which one can join for a mere US\$ 30.00 which includes life membership, T-shirt, a poster, stickers, flags and gadgets.

Saturday June 4th the antenna- a vertical

**RADIO TAPES**  
**YOU CAN HAVE YOUR**  
**CHOICE !**  
**FRS SALES**  
**PRODUCTIONS**  
**A NAME TO REMEMBER !!**  
**P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten**

dipole- was cut off due to gales. During the following two weekends the station was on the air with a mere 25W. June 26th a new antenna system became operational enabling the station to resume trms on full power (0.5 kW).

A new station, this time NOT via the IRRS, was noted Sun July 10th on 6252 playing oldies. Name of the station: **RADIO ROYAL**. Reception was rather poor. Did the presenter have connections with Star Club Radio?

**SUD WEST RADIO** returned to the airwaves July 10th following a longer break. SWR is one of Germany's oldest SW free radio stations and used to be very popular among German DXers. Although the station never really ceased broadcasting, it was only sporadically active during the last few years. The station was noted on 6210 kHz with a 60 minute show and the output of the transistorized tx was approx. 60W providing a strong signal on the continent but a weaker signal in the UK. Main man is just like in the old days- Charlie Rafferty who announced that correct reception reports would be verified with a qsl card from the new "series 4". Most SWR qsl's show interesting photos of the station's technical equipment. Address is (7).

We are told that **RADIO NORDSEE INT.** from Germany has a new mailing address: P.O.Box 2209, D-77612 Offenburg in Germany. We hope the station OP can confirm this report!

The station identifying itself as **RADIO LIVE** (see unids FRSGDX 129/FRSGDX

130) which broadcasts on 6530 seems to be an Italian station. At least: Italian pxs were noticed on 6530 June 19th. The broadcast lasted a couple of hours and reception was fair/good depending on the reception area. Sat/Sun June 11th/12th techno and disco mx was heard on 6530. No address is known.

**BRITAIN's BETTER MUSIC STATION** is an UK-based 'veteran' station which broadcasts very irregularly. July 17th a test was conducted on 6266 kHz. More tests were heard in the weekend of August 13th/14th. Both trms were aired on 6307, nowadays an (almost) forgotten and unused frequency. In particular on the 14th- when a 30 min. test was conducted- a decent signal was received on the continent. Address seems to have changed. It used to be (3) but is now 40 Dalehead, Camden, London NW1 2SL in England. It arrived just too late to be included in FRSGDX 129: a press release from **RADIO MARABU**. It reads as follows: "From July onwards Radio Marabu will start with pxs via the tx of the NEXUS-IBA (IRRS) seated in Milano, Italy. The programmes will be aired each month every 2nd Saturday from 14.00-15.00 CET on 7125 kHz. The exact dates for the upcoming 1994 trms are: September 10th, October 8th, November 12th & December 10th. Marabu plans to raffle one CD each programme among those who phone, fax or write. Marabu can be heard via more than one relay service. Sat & Sun 08.00-09.00/ 12.30-13.30 UTC on 7380 (Idea Radio), Sun 09.00-10.00 UTC on 7294 USB (Radio Europe). July 9th Marabu was according to plan on 7125 with a Gary Lee programme. This was not the case during the 2nd Sat of August when other stations were heard! July 31st and August 20th fine 7294 signals were heard via Radio Europe. Add is (1).

**JOLLY ROGER RADIO** is the most active Irish SW free radio station. Since June 19th the station has been noted with almost weekly trms on 6229. A number of times JRR relayed fellow SW pirates such as BRI, Laser Hot Hits and Marabu. In the UK a good signal is noted most of the times. On the continent JRR provides a poor/fair signal. JRR's output primarily consists of country music. Address is (4).

A mystery were the tests of **RADIO 101**. For your info: Radio 101 was a German station which broadcasted in the mid 80's from Ireland on 41 metres. July 24th saw



the station on 15015 and 7360 kHz (not in parallel) with pxs in German and English. It's not clear to us whether these were old tapes or fresh pxs?? On 15015 audio was weak. Both signals were rather weak on the continent. August 7th a second 7360 broadcast was heard and for this occasion we are positive it concerned old tapes. August 14th the station was once again on the air on 7360 with a poor mod quality. Anyone who can help us to solve this mystery??

**HIT RADIO 101** is another mystery station which is possibly not the same station as Radio 101. July 23rd trms were heard on a very unusual frequency: 27785 kHz in USB mode. At 21.06 some 30W were used, later that evening power was upped to 100W. Address????

**RADIO PIRANA INT.** keeps on 'rocking' on 76 & 48 metres. A handful of trms were noted in the June/July period, all on different frequencies such as 6255, 6276, 6285, 3926 and 3910. August 14th the station was on 6255 and 6285 using LSB mode. Most of Pirana's signals are received in fair/good quality on the continent. The station is planning a medium wave service which could be on 1509 and/or 1640 kHz. Trms could commence later this year. According to SRS News from Sweden Radio Pirana will soon transmit from a new and better QTH in addition to the current QTH. Address is (1).

**EAST COAST COMMERCIAL** was noted July 3rd on 6255 with the usual DX-infos. Early August there were two trms in a row: August 7th a scheduled 1st Sun of the month one followed by a special and annual broadcast commemorating the 27th anniversary of the British M.O.A. During the latter trm a good 6255 signal was heard on the continent. ECC put out extracts of former offshore stations such as Radio 270, Radio London etc. Address is K-Flats 9-11, Church Street, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9ER in the UK. The next trm will take place October 2nd taking into consideration the Sept. one (4th) has been put out at the moment this magazine was on its way to you!

**RADIO NORD** is a new name in SW free radio land. As far as we know the station was first heard in June on Sat 11th in the later evening hours. Eversince Radio Nord was continuously monitored with Sunday broadcasts on 6206.5 kHz.

During several weekends also Sat broadcasts were noted, all on the same frequency. The station plays much oldies interspersed with DX tips presented by at least two deejays. Pxs were noted in Swedish. On the continent fair signals have been noted most broadcasts. If you look at the August 20th/21st loggings you will discover the name **RADIO BALTIC INT.** on 6206.5 kHz. We guess it's the same station as Radio Nord. A bit confusing, isn't it? Fact is that Radio Nord/RBI relayed Dutch commercial radio station Holland FM a couple of times, for instance August 20th. The station is closely connected to SRS and this maildrop is being used (according to a qsl-letter): Box 65, S-68322 Hagfors in Sweden.

**BRITAIN RADIO INT.** celebrated (much to our surprise) its 14th anniversary July 10th. In recent years BRI's birthday shows always took place in June. 1993 was an exception 'cause station OP Roger Davis preferred the better propagation on SW in October. As a result the 13th birthday was aired October 24th a week after FRS-Holland's birthday celebraitions. It was thought BRI would continue this course. Conditions weren't particularly good in July but it is hoped the station received an encouraging number of letters! Signal quality in the UK was good, on the continent a rather poor signal was heard on 6235. Unfortunately no 7365 or 7360 kHz 41 mb signal was noted. July 23rd and August 14th saw BRI on 6228, presumably via the JRR tx in Ireland. We're still looking forward hearing from Roger Davis informing us about his winter 1994-1995 plans on SW. Add is (3) & (4).

German SW broadcaster **DR. TIM** celebrated its very first anniversary July 17th on 6288//6217 via an unknown relay station. A fair signal was noted. Much to our surprise the same px was heard on 3932 during the late evening hours of Sat July 16th thus being the station's debute on 76 metres. A week later the station was noted on 3905 via Swedish SBC. Congra-

tulations with the 1st birthday. Add is (1).

**LEVEL 48**, the collaboration consisting of 9 stations, all German, has ceased its activities, at laest for the time being. A number of reasons underlie the decision to discontinue Level 48's SW broadcasts. It was getting too difficult to organize a transmission in which all 9 stations were involved. From a geographical point of view all stations are spread over Germany and several meetings had to be held to prepare just one single broadcast. Many people had to do long travels, it was almost impossible to arrange a date and time being suitable for all persons and the communication between all different stations was also a 'stumbling block'. In addition some of the stations were hardly able to produce shows under their own station name. One of the people involved was Charlie Rafferty of Sud West Radio who spend a lot of time in designing excellent Level 48 qsl-cards. Level 48 carried out a number of marathon transmissions in which several txs on different locations were carrying out the station's programme output. Sat July 9th saw a Level 48 broadcast containing info about the SWCLS DX-camp in Merchweiler-via Radio Europe on 7294. Sun July 10th and Sun July 31st two further trms were heard on 7294. Address is (7).

The **WORLD's GREATEST ANORAK STATION** carried out a series of tests on 41 mb. June 26th WGAS was to be heard on 7373, later on that morning a qsy was made to 7398. July 3rd 7398 was used and a week later 7359 kHz in the morning hours. That same day, July 10th, the station was on 6295 at 00.06 UTC. A strong nighttime signal was heard on the continent. The question is whether these tests were meant to choose a new frequency for future use. Signals on 41 metres were fair. Address is (4).

**RADIO AMAZONIA** is a new German station which depends on other stations when it comes to putting out broadcasts. June 18th the station was relayed by

**RADIO MARABU**  
POSTFACH 220342-5600 WUPPERTAL 22

**What other stations do on their late night free form shows is what we do all day.**



Swedish SBC. July 30th saw Amazonia on 6260 (morning hours) and 3936 (evening) via ?? The August 21st broadcast on 6207 was aired via Radio Baltic Int. (Radio Nord). Address is unknown.

The SCANDINAVIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY tested June 18th on 3905. A fine signal was produced that evening. SBC is relaying several stations on 76 metres. Address is same as SRS: Ostra Porten 29, 44254 Ytterby in Sweden.

German RADIO PERFECT (7) popped up on 3910 August 20th, probably by the Swedish SW Relay Service (1). One day later Perfect was noted on 6257 kHz.

RADIO LOLLIPOP seems to be using their own tx. US station Solid Rock Radio was relayed twice and was it Radio EsotERICA also being relayed via Lollipop Sat August 20th on 6225?? Radio Lollipop's 3900 and 6225 broadcasts on August 20th were NOT in parallel with each other. Add is (1).

#### SW NEWS IN BRIEF

RADIO LIGHTNING INT. was heard Sat June 25th on 6210. Add is Box 10, Stuart House, Kings Street, Droylsden, Manchester in the UK \*\*\* EMERALD RADIO continues with irregular trms from the Republic of Ireland. July 3rd was such an occasion with a fair signal on 6225. Add is 8 Inverness Rd, Dublin 3 in Ireland \*\*\* OPTIMOD can be heard so now and often. The station used to be very regular but since Radio Merlin/BIRS were raided Optimod depends on other realy services. Perhaps there will be more pxs as soon as The 6239 service of Merlin/BIRS recommences (September?). Add is c/o Caretaker's House, Lawn Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5PP in the UK. July 24th Optimod was heard with DX-infos on 6400 via WNKR's tx \*\*\* XYLOPHONE TRANSMITTING COMPANY was noted July 17th on 6255 with a weak UK and a slightly better continental signal putting out rock mx. August 14th saw XTC on 6275 qso-ing with good old Radio Orion. Add is (1) \*\*\* RADIO BENELUX from Germany was heard July 10th & August 21st on 7480, the station's fixed frequency. Benelux seems to be one of the few users of that part of the 41 mb nowadays! Add is (7) \*\*\* RADIO DUBLIN continues with 6910 trms. A number of times Dublin was also

heard on weekdays. Add is Box 2077, Dublin 8 in Ireland \*\*\* RADIO MIKE from the Rotterdam area was noted with a test in English on 6237 June 26th. Signal was rather poor. A further 6237 trm took place July 10th with a better signal. Address is unknown \*\*\* RADIO BRIGITTE wasn't very active during the Summer period. June 26th a programme with letters and pop mx was put on the air on 6560 kHz \*\*\* Fri July 1st saw an unknown station relaying the Dutch commercial satellite station Holland FM on 6205. This relay took place in the later afternoon. That same station was also noted on 6268. Talking of UNIDS: quite a number have been logged in the past months. If you can help us: please!! Almost all unids have been logged on 48 metres \*\*\* Sat July 9th UK-based RADIO ARMADILLO returned after a few month's (?) break on 6292. The trm was noted in the evening hours. Add is (1) \*\*\* Dutch station RADIO RIDICULOUS which wasn't heard on the SW bands for a long period, popped up on 48 metres with a poor signal Fri July 15th \*\*\* RADIO WITHOUT BORDERS INT. (see also 'Artiom Reports') was heard on several times during July and August. August 13th the station was once again on 3909 drifting a few kHz on the upper side. Add can be found in Artiom's column \*\*\* SOUTH HOBBY RADIO from Perm, Russia (see also Artiom's column) made it to Europe July 16th. The station's 50W signal was heard on 3909. The show consisted of rock mx \*\*\* STAR CLUB RADIO is still alive and was noted July 3rd on 6206. There was mutual qem between SCR and Radio Nord using 6206.5 kHz. Add SCR is (1) \*\*\* July 2nd SHAMROCK RADIO was heard for the first time (?) on 7294 via Radio Europe. Add is Box 39 in Waterford, Ireland \*\*\* OZONE RADIO seems to satisfied with the 6210 channel. A handful of broadcasts were monitored on that channel with poor results on the continent and a fair/good signal in the UK. Add is (3) \*\*\* During its July 3rd broadcast on 6290, North German station NORDLICHT RADIO announced a telephone number over the airwaves. The show on consisted of popmx and letters. Add is (1) \*\*\* A German station which hasn't been heard that much so far is RADIO CITY. July 10th City was heard on 7458 kHz at 10.27 UTC. Address is (1) \*\*\* Good old GERONIMO from the UK is the station from technical brain Chris Watson who's doing technical features for FRS GDX.

Chris has been testing many times over the past year on out-of-band frequencies such as 4.7 MHz and using different antenna systems. June 19th Geronimo was on 48 metres 6259 kHz. Unfortunately a rather weak signal was heard on the continent. Add is still (??) Box 39, 62222 St.Martin, Bologne in France \*\*\* German CRAZY WAVE RADIO is one of the very few stations using frequencies in the 6265-6270 section of the 48 mb. Agust 7th the station was received with a much too low modulation providing info about the Merchweiler DX-camp. Add is (7). It seems the station is using a solid state Pirate Andy transmitter \*\*\* WAVE RADIO carried out a successful 6220 test June 12th. A strong and well-modulated signal was heard. Add is (6) \*\*\* RADIO DELTA (Ruurlo) has switched to medium wave, at least for the time being. Sat June 18th saw the station on the popular 1637 spot, the day after a broadcast was noted under the name Charlie Delta. August 20th Delta was on 1637 calling cq to all 76 mb stations! Add is Box 65, 7260 AB Ruurlo in the Netherlands \*\*\* SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO was heard on 6295 via ??? June 11th. A week later SMR was relayed on 7125 over the tx of the IRRS in Italy. August 20th SMR was active on 3910 and 7125. A 6257 relay took place August 21st. All in all quite some activity! Add is (4) \*\*\* REFLECTIONS EUROPE carries on with weekly Sun trms on 6205//3910//12255 kHz \*\*\* MAGNUM AM was noted on 6399 in the evening hours of Sat June 11th. Via WNKR?? \*\*\* RADIO ORION put out a good signal on 6275 kHz August 14th. Later on that morning the station was heard qso-ing with fellow UK pirate XTC. Add is c/o 6 Worcester Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV2 4LD in the UK \*\*\* Russian RADIO MAGIC was heard Sat June 25th at 01.00 UTC on 7385 in USB. Obviously Magic was relayed via the NAPRS. A Russian station via an American relay. A few years ago this would be unthinkable... Radio Magic's add is Box 1461, Perm 614036 in Russia.

#### US FREE RADIO NEWS

SOLID ROCK RADIO was heard a few times on the European airwaves. July 17th at 08.14 UTC the station was heard with a strong signal on 6205. If our info is correct it concerned a relay via German Radio Lollipop. August 20th a second relay via Lollipop was noted on 6225.



Tuesday July 5th SRR between 02.09-02.35 UTC was heard on 41 metres 7385 kHz in USB putting out rap and funky music. This was NOT a relay, the station crossed the Atlantic! Address is Box 452, Wellsville, New York 14895 in the USA.

**THE FOX** not to be confused with the German The Fox AM succeeded in reaching Europe Sun June 12th at 00.20 UTC. Frequency was 7385. According to one of our sources the trm was done via WYDX. A parody of religious preachers was the content of the show. There was qrm from Radio Beijing. The Fox signed off at 00.43 and a minute later a station called **BABY PIRATE** was heard on the same frequency calling for The Fox. Address The Fox is using no less than three addresses: the Wellsville one (see above),(8) and Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214 in the USA. **DOWN EAST RADIO**-using the latter address-was noted with comedy on 7415 at 23.23 UTC June 11th. June 19th the **NORTH AMERICAN PIRATE RELAY SERVICE** tested on 6290 via an unknown Euro pirate. The station uses the Wellsville address and has relayed several European hobby pirates in recent months. August 20th NAPRS tested on 6225 and was heard at 23.10 UTC. We are not sure whether this was a relay or a Transatlantic broadcast. Mark Brown could perhaps give us the solution! □

#### *Cont. Made in Holland:*

percent of the time will be filled with music.

A re-structuring of the station was needed badly, because the station has lost a major part of its listeners in recent years. Some years ago Radio 2 had a marketshare of 17%!

A lot of listeners were lost to the commercial stations and the regional broadcasters. Aim of the operation is to establish a marketshare of some 12 %.

#### **BART VAN LEEUWEN**

Last year former Veronica and Mi Amigo deejay Bart van Leeuwen tried to leave RTL Radio already. However, the management of the station pointed at his three-year contract. This year again Bart tried to go to Radio 538. And this time he was successful: from September 1st onwards he will join his new employer. At Radio 538 here was a vacancy after Will Luikinga joined the Oldies Station. Until September 1st Will Luikinga will present programmes for both stations.

#### The new Radio 538 schedule:

06.00-09.00	Wessel van Diepen & Ruud de Wild
09.00-12.00	Bart van Leeuwen
12.00-15.00	Erik de Zwart
15.00-19.00	Michael Pilarczyk
19.00-22.00	Corné Klijn
22.00-01.00	Koen van Tijn
01.00-06.00	non stop

Fast and factual: one number can tell you all that's new in radio. From Capital to Caroline, BBC to Berlin, plus DX tips and satellite news. A dedicated line takes your comments 24 hours a day. Call **RADIO DAZE** and be the first with the news!!

#### HANS KNOT VIDEOS AVAILABLE:

**BBC RADIO NIGHTS:** 5½ hours about the history of radio on two tapes. Price is f 50,-.

**ROSS REVENGE SAILS FROM DOVER TO MALDEN:** the Ross leaving Dover harbour sailing to and arriving in Malden. Price is f 30,-.

**RADIO NORD:** an excellent 90 min. show programme all about Radio Nordbroadcasted Easter Sun on Swedish TV2. Interviews, Nord jingles and commercials and many unique pictures make this video very much worth while. Price: f 40,-Address: Box 102, 9700 AC Groningen.



# FRS SATELLITE TELEX

For the record, we would like to point out that part of the satellite news can be read in another column called 'Made in Holland'. Of course it concerns the news about Dutch commercial satellite radio services. In this month's 'Made in Holland' we cover interesting news items regarding RTL Radio & Radio 538.

## DAVE WINDSOR

A few months ago FRSGDX reported about Dave Windsor's radio show on BFBS. In the mean time this freaky, fast-moving oldies show can be heard at a new time slot. 'Windsor's Wavelength' is now every Sunday between 20.00-22.00 CEST and offshore enthusiasts who'd love the way of presentation as it used to be in the 1960s on Big L, Caroline etc. should tune in. *You won't regret it!* Dave Windsor plays known but also rare oldies and....lots of jingles from 60s/70s. A great show which can be heard via cable networks carrying the BFBS programming and via the Intelsat.

## DIGITAL RADIO

August saw the commencement of digital radio via the Eutelsat II-F1 13 degrees east satellite. The new radio package is called SARA and European stations showing interest will be able to carry out the uplinking from the radio signal from their own studio. This is possible because a special technique- SCPC (see also below)- is being used. Currently there are only receivers available to cable networks distributing the digital signals to their subscribers. By the end of 1995 receivers should become available for private use.

The future will bring more and more digital satellite radio services. Up till now the French Alcatel and German DSR systems are best known. On Eutelsat there is a system called SCPC. SCPC is a technique to distribute all kinds of digital signals, also radio signals. SCPC is different from the Alcatel and DSR techniques. A new phenomenon, having its roots in the USA, is pay radio or better: pay audio. Companies offer dozens of digital 'super quality' audio signals which are distributed by satellite. In fact it is no real radio: it concerns non-stop music channels with NO presenters/deejays and NO commercials or news; music service for subscribers. One US company expanding its services in Europe is Digital Music Express (DMX). DMX has leased enough subcar-

riers on Astra to distribute 78 of a total of 90 (!!) different pay audio channels. These 78 audio channels will be distributed via 10 satellite transponders. Early 1995 DMX will start to sell this commercial service to interested users. Subscribers not only need a satellite receiver but also a special DMX-tuner plus remote control which are needed to decode the digital audio signals. In this way one can receive 78 (as far as DMX is concerned) non-stop music channels in digital quality. Music Choice Europe, a rival of DMX is also considering the idea of leasing transponders on Astra. They intend to distribute the signals via BSkyB. However: because of a deal between DMX and Sky there are currently no Sky audio subcarriers left on the Astra 1A, 1B & 1C satellites. MCE is now depending on the Astra 1D. MCE and DMX tuners aren't interchangeable. Similar to DMX, MCE intends to provide dozens of digital audio channels. The introduction of DMX and perhaps MCE means the introduction of digital radio on Astra. Astra Digital Radio (ADR)- that's the name thought up by SES, the owners of Astra- hopes to reach two goals: high tech supply to cable networks and individual listeners as well as distribution of pay radio (or better: pay music) channels to private users of satellite equipment.

Ofcourse the music is divided into many genres/formats. Imagine you are a rock fan. MCE offers you the following audio channels: *electric rock, modern rock, classic rock, rock plus, underground rock and soft rock...* Six different rock formats! To mention a few other formats: metal, urban beat, hit list, love songs, country gold, new age, blues, body & soul, solid gold oldies, reggae, hip hop etc. The remote control plays an important role supplying the user on a LCD-screen info about the different audio channels, the title of the song, artist, record label and title of the CD.

Both MCE and DMX services are put together in the USA but this will soon change. The reason is clear: when the music channels are composed in Europe, they can take the 'regional' preferences into account. Futurists speculate that it must be possible to download your favorite CD on your very own recordable CD or MD.

## OLDIES ON SATELLITE

For those who love oldies the Astra offers two radio stations with a 'non-stop' oldies diet: RTL Oldiessender (German) on 7.38/7.56 MHz subcarriers of RTL-4 television. The second station is Super-

gold, a Chiltern Radio service which used to be on the Sky News 7.92 MHz subcarrier (lousy audio quality) but is now on Sky Sports' 7.38 MHz subcarrier in better quality. Beware: it's the 7.38 MHz subcarrier of the brandnew Sky Sports 2 tv-channel which is on channel 47/11.170 GHz on Astra. Another station, Asda FM, moved to Sky Sports-2's 7.56 MHz audio subcarrier.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

■ **JAM FM** have merged with 89 Hit FM, a local station in Munich. As a result the latter can now be heard Euro-wide via Jam's 7.38/7.56 MHz subcarriers on ARTE tv (11.548 GHz/V on the Kopernikus DFS-1 23.5 degrees east).

■ **Radio Orient** operating via the Eutelsat II-F1 13 degrees east satellite on the 7.38/7.56 MHz audio subcarriers of the Middle East Broadcasting Company, has changed its name into Radio MBC FM.

■ The German version of **World Radio Network** will (has) take(n) to the airwaves September 1st on MTV's 7.74 MHz audio subcarrier. WRN is already leasing the 7.38 subcarrier with relays of English-language International radio programmes. MTV can be found on Astra 11.538 GHz/V. The station will offer German-language contributions from International (SW) radio stations (FRW).

■ The German youth pop music station **N-Joy** operating on Premire TV's 7.74/7.92 MHz subcarriers asked listeners to drop them a line from countries far away. One reaction came from the Africac country Namibia (FRW)!

■ On request of a few readers we publish a number of addresses of commercial satellite radio stations:

RTL ROCK RADIO	RADIO 10 GOLD
P.O.Box 15107	P.O.Box 10
1200 TV Hilversum	1000 AA A'dam
the Netherlands	the Netherlands
RADIO 538	HOLLAND FM
P.O.Box 1538	Zandmolen Duif 4
1400 LH Hilversum	3035 JA Rotterdam
the Netherlands	the Netherlands
VIRGIN 1215	
1, Golden Square	
London W1R 4DJ, England	

# MADE in HOLLAND

By Chris Latiers

Last time there was so little Dutch news, that our editor decided to include the content of Made in Holland in some other parts of the magazine. However this time there is enough news to present a new issue of Made in Holland.

## ASSIGNMENT OF FREQUENCIES ILLEGAL

A commission of appeal has decided Holland FM, Radio Noordzee Nationaal, Radio 10 Gold, Classic FM and AM Nieuws have unjustly got a terrestrial frequency. As already reported Secretary d'Ancona of the Ministry of Culture had formulated conditions for the commercial stations to get a frequency. Diversity, additional to the current broadcasters, contributing to the Dutch musical culture and solvency. The commission has stated these conditions are in contradiction to the Dutch Media Law. The commission exactly has the same opinion as Sky Radio and Radio 538. The Secretary has been advised to do her work all over again. However, she refused to do so, because the Dutch Government and a majority in Parliament had accepted these conditions.

In the meantime Secretary d'Ancona has left the Government to become a Member of European Parliament (again). It's expected her successor, Secretary Ritzen, will repeat her arguments.

The commission of appeal especially thinks it's wrong conditions are laid upon independent commercial stations to enlarge the diversity of programmes in Holland. The commercial stations in this way have to act as a addition to the public system. In other words: a commercial station only could get a frequency if the station offers a programme the publicasters don't bring. In the eyes of the commission the terrestrial frequencies are used to strengthen the position of the public system.

Mrs. D'Ancona stated additional conditions were needed to ensure other stations than the highest bidder were able to get a frequency. Also newcomers had to get a chance. That's why marketshares of commercial stations were kept out of consideration.

Radio Noordzee Nationaal has been preferred, because the station plays merely Dutch music. RNN could contribute to the development of the Dutch music and musical culture. However....

## RADIO NOORDZEE ON THE CARPET

The Dutch Commission for the Media (a kind of FCC) has asked Radio Noordzee Nationaal to give some explanation about its format. The Commission is in doubt whether RNN is applying to the conditions concerning its license. RNN got a terrestrial frequency because the stations should broadcast a lot of Dutch material (see above).

The Commission has made an enquiry on the question whether the commercial stations were living up to the conditions, laid upon them by assigning the frequencies.

The Commission concluded they all behaved in a proper way, except RNN. The station is broadcasting quite a lot of "foreign" material.

The management of the station defended themselves by saying they had always made the condition to alter the format in case "the market" did require so.

The Commission has asked RNN to give information about their current and future format. The Commission has the opportunity to lay a penalty upon the station. Lex Harding, Radio 538 director, pointed at the "mistakes" made by RNN already some months ago.

## THE OLDIES STATION

In issue 129 it was already reported yet another new commercial radio station would start: The Oldies Station. Friday July 19th at 07.00 local time the station took over the EuroJazz frequency. Between 07.00 and 19.00h only records from 1975 and earlier years are played. Between 19.00 and 07.00 next morning EuroJazz is broadcasting again.

Maybe it's too early to give an opinion on the station. But after listening some time we can state it sounds quite good. The choice of music isn't 'easy'. Not only the very popular songs are played. Also lesser known music can be heard. The deejays are presenting the programmes very relaxed, giving useful information about the music. In our ears the station sounds much less predictable compared to Radio 10 Gold, were every day every programme seems to be sounding the same.

One thing is for sure: Stan Haag isn't only old, he also sounds like that!

EuroJazz hopes to attract more listeners and (of course!) advertisers by changing the station. A spokesman of the station

said it regarded "only a minor adjustment of the format"....!

Main reason for the troubles at EuroJazz has been the fact the station didn't get a terrestrial frequency earlier this year, in contrast with Classic FM which is also putting out jazz programmes.

With the arrival of The Oldies Station the struggle for life between the commercial stations will grow. This bring us to the next item:

## COMMERCIAL STATIONS UNKNOWN

Commercial radio stations have to put much more effort into their familiarity. Cable systems ensure a lot of potential listeners, however a great part of the audience isn't aware of their existence. An example: 85% of the households can receive Sky Radio, though only 55% of the audience say they are able to listen to the station. For Radio Noordzee Nationaal the situation is even worse. In 1993 not more than 18% of the audience said they could receive the station, while the signal got into two of every three households.

There are 10 commercial stations in Holland at this moment. A little reminder: Radio 10 Gold, Love Radio, Sky Radio, Radio 538, Happy RTL, Holland FM, Radio Noordzee Nationaal, EuroJazz, The Oldies Station and Classic FM. Some of these stations will disappear, others stay, despite the fact they are making losses.

Revenues from advertising on Happy RTL and Love Radio (part of the Radio 10 group) are strikingly low according to a recent investigation. Moreover Happy RTL's format is disorderly. The investigators recommended the station to return to its former classic rock format. The station reacted very quickly! See next item.

Love Radio only is a weak copy of Sky Radio and doesn't attract much listeners. However, both RTL and Love Radio probably will continue, because they have strong ties with successful broadcasters.

Radio 10 Gold will survive. The station already was profitable before the terrestrial frequency was assigned to it.

Holland FM also has a terrestrial frequency. However that hasn't been a guarantee for success yet. See the listening figures further in this issue of Made in Holland. Holland FM isn't making profits at this moment.

Also the future of Radio Noordzee Nationaal and Classic FM isn't sure, despite their frequency.

So there is a good chance a re-structuring



in the landscape of the commercial stations will take place in the not too distant future. Rumours about mergers between stations are circulating for some time already. Especially talks between RTL and Holland FM should be very serious...

### HOLLAND FM NEWS

Wednesday July 27th Holland FM started broadcasting on a *second frequency*. The station transmits on 828 kHz from Rotterdam with a power of 2 kW. The station was already broadcasting on 1224 kHz for the centre part of the country. By using 828 kHz it is also possible to receive Holland FM in the Southern and Western part of Holland. However, on a good radioset it is possible to receive both 1224 and 828 throughout most parts of the country. Remarkable is the fact that in remote areas of the country -especially the Eastern and Southern part- reception of 828 is *superior* compared to 1224, 'though the transmitter is located at greater distance and power is much lower.

The first days of broadcasting on 828 weren't very successful. Thursday July 28th the hot and sunny summer in the Netherlands was -temporarily- interrupted by some severe thunderstorms. Especially the Western part of the country got a good share. As a result the mast at the Rotterdam location was struck by lightning. The station was off air for some hours.

Already three days later, in the early hours of Sunday July 31st the 828 transmitter was forced to go off air again. This time the problem was manmade: at the transmitter location connection cables were pulled off. It lasted five hours before the Nozema had carried out repairs and Holland FM could resume its 828 AM broadcasts. At this moment it is still not clear who has been responsible for this act. At one hand it is quite logical to think about some "drunken" youngsters, who 'just' wanted to destroy something, but on the other hand it is quite clear Holland FM has some enemies among local (pirate) stations. The stations is too successful in their eyes. However, there is no evidence at this moment to prove this.

### RTL RADIO: (NEW) ROCK FORMAT

From Monday August 1st onwards RTL Radio has changed its format. The station is now using a rock format (again). However, this time not only *classic rock*,

as in the first days of the station, but also current rock music is being played. By listening to the station it is clear they have quite a broad definition of the word "rock". But -in our ears- it is clear the station has *improved a lot*. However it is obvious the change of format has been undertaken very quickly. The station hasn't had the time to order a proper jingle package. They now use announcements (voicovers) made by the deejays themselves.

The name of the station has been changed from Happy RTL into *RTL Rock Radio*. According to program controller Marc Jacobs the station is aiming at people who bought a lot of records during the sixties and seventies and who are now replacing their collection with CD's. These people should have renewed interest in the music from these decades. Former Veronica jock Bart van Leeuwen who joined RTL Radio May 1st 1992 presented his last RTL breakfast show on Friday August 25th. He switched to Radio 538 where he will meet a lot of his former Veronica colleagues like Wessel van Diepen, Erik de Zwart and managing-director Lex Harding. Bart van Leeuwen will be hosting the Radio 538 9-12 AM slot on weekdays. Jan van der Putten replaced Bart on RTL Rock Radio. Former Radio Monique jock Luc van Rooijen (alias Luc Dardin) who did already regular weekend shows on the station, has now a daily (weekdays) show between 16.00-20.00 hours. After 20.00 RTL goes non-stop with great rock music from Yes to Boston and Joe Jackson to The Rolling Stones.

### RADIO 538

Radio 538 is the next station leaving its analogue audio subcarriers switching to digital mode. Radio 10 Gold did the same last year but they are since January receivable on 675 AM. This simply means that Radio 538 is no longer available to private satellite receivers but only to cable networks. Radio 538 will leave Astra and will switch to the Eutelsat II-F1. The 538 audio subcarriers 7.74/7.92 MHz on Sky One will perhaps be used by a brandnew German version of Sky Radio. If you are interested to read about Radio 538, then take a look on page 538 of MTV's teletext.

By the way: at the moment this news is compiled, Radio 538 is still available on Astra.

Since September 1st Radio 538 has a brandnew programme schedule including 'prodigal son' Bart van Leeuwen.

Strong rumours circulate about an upcoming *merger* between Sky Radio and Radio 538. In connection with a possible merger also the name of RTL Rock Radio is mentioned! October could be the month in which important decisions could be made regarding the future of a number of Dutch commercial satellite delivered radio stations.

### THE LATEST FIGURES

According to the latest listening figures, regarding the months of March, April, May and June Radio 10 Gold and Radio Noordzee National became more and more popular. The terrestrial frequencies have done their job! However, Holland FM and Classic FM haven't seen a major increase in their marketshares yet. The public broadcasters had a lower marketshare (again), compared with the previous period. Remarkable: marketshare of the public broadcasters was 60% in April 1992...! Radio Noordzee National saw a clear increase in marketshare after "winning" a frequency. The marketshares of the main radio stations in Holland:

	1	2	3	4
Radio 1	9,9	9,6	9,7	9,5
Radio 2	6,8	7,1	6,8	6,8
Radio 3	26,4	25,5	25,3	24,6
Radio 4	2,8	2,8	2,6	2,6
Radio 5	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,1
Total	47,0	46,2	45,6	44,6
Sky R.	8,3	7,6	7,1	6,1
Radio 10	7,6	8,0	8,6	9,2
R. 538	3,6	3,6	3,3	3,5
Hol. FM	2,4	2,6	2,3	2,4
Noordzee	1,5	1,8	2,6	6,3
RTL R.	2,0	1,9	1,7	1,1
Love R.	1,0	1,1	1,3	1,3
Clas. FM	---	---	0,2	
Total	26,4	26,6	26,9	30,1
regional	17,3	18,4	19,0	17,7
others	9,3	8,8	8,5	7,6
total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

The public broadcasters are undertaking every possible measure to gain back some territory. Latest development is the re-styling of Radio 2. From January 1st 1995 this station will be aiming at the middle aged (35-64). Station profile will be "full-service entertainment". Music will come from the sixties and seventies. Sixty

To be continued on page 23 column 1

# ARTIOM REPORTS...

Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends....I hope! First of all I'd like to apologize for my absence in FRSGDX 129. Because of many different reasons/ circumstances I simply couldn't make it. Anyway, here I am again with bits and pieces from the Russian and East European free radio scene. This time I begin with the long-awaited info about Lithuanian voice **RADIO TORNADO**. The idea for this project arose in 1992, but due to technical reasons it was shelved until the autumn of 1993. The debut transmission took place in the morning of September 19th 1993. On 6210 a hard rock show was aired under the name of **BALTIC COAST RADIO** via the tx of Swedish station Heavy Dude Radio. Only 5 reports reached the station's mailbox: from Sweden, Latvia, Norway and Germany. Another station which agreed to relay BCR was Irish Jolly Roger Radio. You see, in this case the use of BCR's slogan could be a very nice spoof and only just for fun it was impossible to prepare programmes under this name. But anyway, the main person decided to change the name and came up with a new one: **RADIO TORNADO**. This was a brief introduction and now I invite you to read a small press release from Radio Tornado:

*"Radio Tornado is a Lithuanian free radio project. The very first show was aired November 6th 1993 at 10.05 UTC on 6205. Output was 80W and the transmitting site was somewhere in the Netherlands. The programme lasted only 15 minutes in which only 4 songs were played. Five reports from Germany, Scotland and the Netherlands were received. Two hours later, on that very same November 6th, RT again popped up, this time on 6229 via JRR with a show lasting 70 minutes. The latter show was repeated the next day and some UK listeners tuned in. That was not the end of RT's activities that weekend! Nov. 7th at 17.00 UTC, RT was relayed on medium wave via the 300W strong tx of Radio Delmare. Result: reports from France, the UK and the Netherlands. At present time RT is an experimental station and its pax could be best qualified as irregular tests via a number of relay stations.*

*All reports have been verified with qsl cards having different designs. You can drop the station a line by writing to one of these addresses:*

*\* P.O.Box 432, 3330 AK Zwijndrecht, the Netherlands  
\* P.O.Box 493, 5802 Klaipeda, Lithuania."*

This story was compiled somewhere in May and ever since no further news has of RT

has reached me. Well, just as RT made its Euro relays, another Russian pirate appeared in the States....this time **RADIO MAGIC**. The responsible person informs me in a letter, that a number of broadcasts were carried out via the tx of the NAPRS. Those shows produced 10 reception reports. One of them came from the OP of another US pirate station and Radio Magic hopes to have one or a few relays via this station using the same pre-recorded shows as being put out by the NAPRS. The name of this second US station is kept secret. Now we move to the southern part of Russia and see what's new on **SOUTH HOBBY RADIO**. In May, I had the opportunity to meet OP Alexander personally here in Moscow. He told me that he continued to improve his transmitting facilities. New in his studio is a 50W amplifier which was used twice (April 10th & May 22nd). The only permanent listener (still), Igor Elizarov, reports from Rostov-on-Don that in spite of a stronger signal, the modulation level quality became worse and close to SSB. SHR's future plan is an installation of a new antenna. Alexander intends to build an inverted V, radiating in the NW-SE direction (instead of East-West radiation). But he will need some time to realize this. Let's wish SHR all the best, hoping that one day (or night...) its signals will cover northern parts of Russia and parts of Europe as well. The next part of my column covers FM. Igor of RWBI came up with a very interesting story from the second Russian capital: St. Petersburg. It looks like that the FM band is crowded with illegal radio stations. Igor picked up an interesting station at approx. 108 MHz when he sat in the train in one of St. Petersburg's suburbs. That station had never been heard during previous days. The show contained music in very good audio. It sounded as the OP had a very well-equipped studio and a good transmitter. Well, the first odd thing noted by a sensitive pirate ear was some strangeness with an open phone-line which was put on the air. The reason was only that only caller's remarks could be audible and not the voice of the presenter. No doubt, that wouldn't happen on a legitimate station. Unfortunately Igor couldn't catch the name of the station, he only noted the deejay called himself Alfonso. Igor switched to other FM frequencies looking for more pirates. But that was NOT the end of the story. Some minutes Igor returned to Alfonso's frequency and heard another voice with oaths addressed to someone (supposedly Alfonso) for jamming. It's difficult to make any mention about the technical operation

as well as to indicate the exact frequency, because a simple receiver was being used. Anyway, our conclusion is that in one of St. Petersburg's regions, there's a competing pirate network.

And now some info about Igor's own project called **RADIO WITHOUT BORDERS INT.** as you will know. Until the month of July, RWBI was silent while a previous attempt to broadcast took place March 22nd. This broadcast failed because of antenna problems. All in all, RWBI unexpectedly returned (even for me, because I was informed by phone when there was already a signal on the air) on 3905 July 3rd. Pre-recorded tapes were played starring Radio Titanic Int. (the station's 18th birthday) followed by extracts of different RWBI live shows and jingle stuff. Then there was a Japanese show presented by Dragon and in the end there were some recordings of legal FM stations (JOQK Niigata FM, Japan and Estereo Revolucion, Managua, Nicaragua).

And now some last minute info which is of great interest....

July 19th 1994. That day I got a telephone call from South Hobby Radio. Talking with me, OP Alexander showed interest to make a qso with RWBI. We agreed that both txs should be switched on on 3895 kHz at 22.00 UTC which is 02.00 local time. SHR began to call cq exactly at 22.00 and some 20 minutes later Igor answered. The qso lasted more than one hour and SHR's signal at RWBI's location was rather good: 43444 (at the RSR listening post in Moscow only 34333). Well, Europe, you already heard RWBI and GMRI broadcasts...it's your turn to catch SHR because it already DID reach our ears here in Moscow. During that qso, the OPs decided to operate as a network during the following weekend (nighttime), July 23rd starting with SHR at 21.00 UTC followed by RWBI at 22.00 UTC. Finally a qso would be done. When I was listening on 76 metres that weekend, I caught an excellent signal on 3935 kHz. The output consisted of pop music (MC Hammer, KL etc.) and ID-ed in Russian like "On 3935 kHz, Russian Radio presents the SHR corporation..." It wasn't SHR, it was another station!!! Quite surprised I called OP Alexander (SHR) and he said he would come on a little later explaining the situation. So he did. **RUSSKOE RADIO** (=Russian Radio) is a sister-station using a 120W tx. At 21.52 UTC SHR signed off but just before the closure Igor was invited to switch his tx on. But RWBI started at 22.20 UTC with a Unesco Radio relay (in Russian) and odd 'Radio cafe' recordings

To be continued on page 12 column 1

# COMMUNICATOR PHOTO-SETS FOR SALE!!!

On offer three photo-sets of the reconditioned MV Communicator. Each colour photo has a size of 10x15cm. The photos are printed from pin-point sharp negatives. This is your chance to obtain a series of very unique photos from that beautiful radio ship which looks better !!

SET 1: The arrival of the MV Communicator in IJmuiden. A set of 13 photos including the moment the ship is towed from the Northsea to the IJmuiden harbour. In addition several photos (taken from different positions) of the ship lying by the quay-side.

Price: DM 29.50/ £ 10.95.

SET 2: The Communicator in IJmuiden. A set of 6 photos showing the ship in IJmuiden. These photos are- compared with set 1- taken from different positions. Super quality. Price: DM 14.00/ £ 5.25.

SET 3: Work on the antenna tower. A set of 13 excellent photos from the 57 metre tall antenna tower. You can see the preparations and how the antenna is being erected on the ship with the help of giant cranes. Very unique photos!! Price: DM 29.50/ £ 10.95.

**EXTRA OFFER :** All three sets (32 photos!) for the price of DM 65.00/ £ 24.50.

FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS\*\*\*P.O.Box 2727\*\*\*6049 ZG HERTEN\*\*\*The Netherlands



Several engineers are working in the antenna tower. Photo: Chris Latiers.

The antenna tower has been erected. Photo: Chris Latiers.

## FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS LATE SUMMER 1994 SUPER OFFERS

All special offers are related to the 20th anniversary of the Dutch version of the M.O.A.!!

**Offer 1:** The Veronica History on video. Impressive documentary covering the period 1959-1977. The tendering..the Norderney...the studios and dramatic shots of the final hours August 31st 1974. An excellent video in good quality in colour, 141 minutes. Narrated in Dutch. Price: DM 50.00/ £ 17.99 including P&P.

**Offer 2:** Radio Noordzee. 150 minute compilation of the Dutch nighttime programming on 220m which went out in the night of August 30th to August 31st 1974. Relive the great sound of RNI! Price: DM 17.50/ £ 6.50 including P&P.

**Offer 3:** Zeezenders in woelig water is a fantastic & unique TROS documentary- dating back to August 1974- commemorating the Dutch offshore stations. Great pictures of the Mebo II including studios and transmitter room. Also pictures of the Norderney, interviews with deejays, the RNI studios in Naarden, the supplies, a gale force on the Northsea and dramatic pictures of the fire aboard the Mebo II May 1971 and the Veronica ship on the beach April 1973. This video is in colour and lasts 50 minutes. Quality is not perfect but fair to good. Price: DM 35.00/ £ 12.95.

**Offer 4:** Final hours of RNI World Service on 6205 kHz with AJ Beirens broadcasted from 18.00-20.00 hours August 31st 1974. Airchecked in SCheveningen, quality is ok. Also on offer final hours German RNI World Service with Peter & Werner Hartwig from 14.00-16.00 hours. Price (for two hours): DM 15.00/ £ 5.50. Price (for all four hours): DM 27.50/ £ 10.00

**Offer 5:** RNI jingles. 60 minutes non-stop RNI jingles in good quality. Many unique jingles but also the well-known ones. A must for every RNI/ jingle freak!! Price: DM 10.00/ £ 3.65.

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